ews

IN THE TABLOID

TUESDAY 15 APRIL 1997

FREE INSIDE TOMORROW

## Tories at war over schools

Political Correspondent

John Major's plans to put a grammar school in every town were collapsing in confusion last night. Tory officials and senior Whitehall figures bickered behind the scenes about how to deliver the policy without being accused of offering bribes.

While some officials hinted that payments to induce schools to go selective could be announced early next week, government grants. The Conservative

The party appeared last night to have painted itself into a corner after The Independent revealed it was planning to offer around £500,000 under its

schools would be reluctant to join. They



Blair's passion for Blair's passion to education: Major pulls into harbour Election Countdown pages, Let

Leading article, page 17, Donald Macintyre Andreas Whittam Smith, Comment, page 19

also know the offer of cash inducements would be attacked mercilessly by Labour and the Liberal Democrats. A senior Conservative source said:

"The truth of the matter is that the vast able the children, the greater the need majority of schools aren't actually to have smaller classes." wanting to change to selection. If we are talking about a grammar school in involved. There would have to be, putting it in crude terms, a bribe at-tached." He said publicity over the plan to offer payments to schools to become grammar schools was causing "a degree

of panic". "This 'bribes' fuss is giving them an attack of the wobbles," he said. While sources at the Department for

Education and Employment were still enthusiastic about the scheme last night, and were hinting at an an-nouncement early next week, officials at party headquarters at first denied the scheme existed and then came up with

a compromise option.
Schools could make dual applications to be grammar schools and specialist schools, they suggested, and could receive payments for specialisation rather than for selection.

Thus, selective schools could receive payments without there being any allegations that they had been bribed

to change their status.

However, such a scheme would be unlikely to work. Only a handful of

THE BROADSHEET

Business & City ....20-24 

grant maintained schools have taken up the existing opportunities to become fully selective, and of 1,500 responses to a recent government consultation in the issue, only 15 were in favour.

Under the plans, up to 720 secondary

schools - one in five - would be able to select either by academic ability, or by aptitude for a specialist subject. They would have to raise £100,000 in sponsorship and would then receive a further £500,000 on average in others reported "panic" and "an attack of the wobbles" at Conservative Central Office over the proposal. sport and technology, to one in five schools. The plan would add academic selection to that list.

Labour and the teachers' unions specialist schools programme to com- have already attacked the plan and prehensives willing to convert have demanded to know how the to-Party officials know that without it tall of 1300m, tar more than is carnancial incentives, the grammar school marked in the budget for specialist s, would be p

The Conservative Party has not attached a price tag to its manifesto plans. It has already created 150 specialist schools and budgeted for a further 300, but the promise would raise add another 270 to bring the total to 720.

Arguments between the Department for Education and Employme, and Conservative Central Office are not unusual, as education offic ils battle u implement pledges made by the Prime Minister. Two years ago, after Mr Major promised nursery education for all four-year-olds, education ministers argued against a voucher scheme but were over-ruled. It seems likely the same may happen again over the issue

of grammar schools.

John Dunford, former president of the Secondary Heads Association and head teacher of Durham Johnston comprehensive school, said the scheme was "a scandalous waste of public money". He said: "Selective schools should receive less money per pupil than nonselective schools and not more. The less

Asked about the plans vesterday. John Major failed to confirm or deny every town there would have to be costs their existence, although he said there would be no shortfall in funding. "The policy is to create a grammar school in every town if that is what the par-ents wish. Our education policy is based upon choice in terms of resources for

education generally." In a major speech on education in Binningham, Tony Blair set out 21 steps for improvement and declared that the subject was his number one priority for Britain. "There is no magic or instant solution. Raising standards will be a long and sometimes hard task but it is the paramount challenge facing a new government. We are ready for the task," he said.

The key lies in government giving priority to education and bringing together a series of initiatives that, when combined will drive up standards

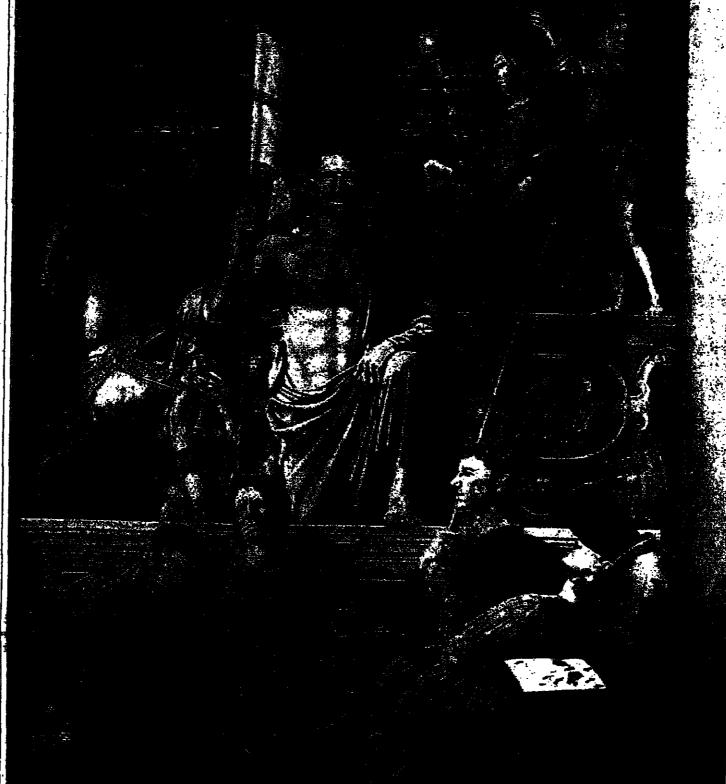
in our schools-We should not grab hold of one new piece of educational dogma, but instead develop a powerful strategy based on clear principles, ambitious goals and innovative means to achieve them," the

The ages of man Atherton reappointed

The number of people living to the age of 100 is set for a 10-fold increase by Michael Atherton bas been reappointed England cricket captain for the 2031 with estimated figures putting the summer's Tests and one-day matches against Australia. Barring injury, in the ... number of centenarisms at 45,000. But second Test at Lord's be will break Pesecond lest at Lorus 50 will be will be expectancy, we are living longer in ter May's 41-Test record as captain, set life expectancy, we are living longer in sickness, not in health.

Page 28 Page 28 sickness, not in health.

Labour leader said.



### Canvas icon: Artist Michael Browne putting finishing touches yesterday to his painting The Art of the Game, which – tongue in cheek – lt reflects street humour - the elevates Cantona to god-like status, after Piero della Francesca's Resurrection of Christ Photograph: Craig Easton kind of humour the fans have." Labour imposes hack tax

The Labour Party admitted last night that it had been paying its hotel expenses by covertly over-charging journalists travelling around the country

At least £1,600 was diverted into the party's "master account" at the Hyatt Regency in Birmingham, some of which was used to pay for a £475-a-night executive some for lony Blair and his wife. Cherie, on Sunday night.

The deceit was uncovered yesterday morning, when more than 40 journalists and camera crew travelling on the party's three campaign battle buses, including *The Independent*, came to settle their hotel bills. They were charged £148 per night, a rate which desk staff said had been negotiated between the hotel and the Labour Party. Yet journalized to the contract of the contract nalists who made their own bookings

were charged just £69.

When challenged over the difference, Roddy Gordon, the hotel's mar-

for Blair's bed and board journalists, so you are going to find out anyway. The Labour Party have asked

us to mark up the rates. "The Labour Party was aware of the charges. During the negotiating process, we were asked to credit the master account of the Labour Party to

the tune of £40 per individual." He said the sales person who conducted the deal was in Morocco and could not be contacted.

Labour initially denied there had been any surcharge on journalists' bills. Lesley Smith, one of its press officers, said a premium room rate had been paid because a large booking was made three weeks in advance. However, after consulting with London, she said: "There has been a cock-up."

"We do attempt to cover the cost of a small number of staff members but in this case it was somewhat overdone and £40 that should have been your discount was credited to us. That will be refunded to all those who paid £148." It is understood the money was used

Blair's room, which usually costs £475, the rooms of an entourage of 11 officials and a drinks party at which the Labour leader met the journalists who were unwittingly picking up the

Media organisations have already each paid £7,500 plus VAT to the party for the privilege of having their jour-naists travel around the country with

the Blair convoy.

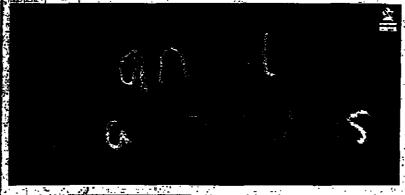
The Conservatives were quick to pounce on Labour's embarrassment at a time when the issue of trust is high

on the agenda.

Alan Duncan, one of its campaign

team, said: "If Labour had any decency left, it would impose a windfall tax on its excess profits." The legality of what Labour did was being questioned last night. Dan Pren-

tice, professor of corporate law at Oxford University, said: "You have effectively been made to contribute to Labour's campaign funds without your knowledge. There is no heavy law inketing director, said: "You are all to subsidise the cost of Mr and Mrs volved here. It is simply wrong,"



The Dunblane Snowdrop Petition will launch this poster on Thursday as a follow-up to a cinema commercial, to intensify pressure on an incoming roment to introduce a total ban on all handguns. "Everyone wants the

pleasure of seeing their child grow up ... by banning all handguns we have the opportunity to give our children a safer future," said Ann Pearston, of Snowdrop.



### Divine Cantona rises again

Clare Garner

Eric Cantona's career may have risen from the dead last season. when he returned after a year's suspension for his famous kung-fu kick, but that hardly makes the man divine. Or does it?

In a controversial new por-trait, unveiled this morning, Cantona is substituted for Jesus Christ. The Art of the Game sar-donically elevates the philosophising French lootballer to the god-like status

bestowed on him by fans.
The image of Cantona used by Michael Browne derives from a 15th Century Italian Renaissance painting, Piero della Francesca's Resurrection of Christ. Apart from the tactful removal of stigmata and shroud, the reproduction is faithful, showing a bare-chested Cantona emerging from the tomb.

Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, and some of the team's other players also feature in the painting. With reference to Andrea Mantegna's Julius Caesar on his Truimphal Chariot, Mr Ferguson is depicted as Caesar. He is holding a palm, the traditional symhol adopted by early Christians as a symbol of Christ's triumph over death. His troops - Phil Neville, David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Gary Neville - are presented as sleeping players.

Fans hoping to purchase the shrine will be disappointed to learn that the 10ft by 8ft oil painting has already been

bought - by the deity himself. Manchester-born Browne. 32, who has also painted a version of the Sistine Chapel frescoes on the ceiling of a restaurant in the city, is confident that his canvas, exhibited at Manchester City Art Galleries from tomorrow, will not cause offence. "To the person on the street it will be tongue in cheek. I don't believe people will take it seriously as an insult.

The new Armada 1500.

The essential business tool, at a price that's not a wrench.

£1199+VAT (£1409 incl. VAT)

The new Armada 1500 range from Compaq highly featured all-in-one notebooks at notably low prices. Apart from core features like a fast Intel Pentium processor and 16 MB RAM, these notebooks (including the Armada 1510) boast a wealth of fully integrated

Armada 1520D even incorporates a 10 speed CD-ROM. Quite simply you get everything you need in one package at a cracking little

price. For your brochure pack please phone: 0990 50 00 20

Prices queted are Typical Busing Frices. Photograph shows Armada 1550T Price queted refers to

M) 79(F)

g has fallen

t there has

je among

ı the last 1()

ongst men.

st women.











### significant shorts

#### Triple killer denied bail by **Dublin High Court**

A 49-year-old Colchester man convicted of three killings failed in a bid to secure bail in the Dublin High Court yesterday after the judge heard he had a history of absconding.

Allan Patrick Reeve is awaiting extradition back to Britain following his arrest at the weekend in Co Cork. He was sent to Broadmoor aged 16 in 1964 after killing a friend. There, at the age of 19, he killed another patient. He escaped and fled to Holland in 1981, where he shot and killed a policeman during an armed sobbers. He was arrested and served a ten-year iail term. robbery. He was arrested and served a ten-year jail term.

Released in 1992 he fied during a dispute over his extradition between UK and Dutch authorities, and had been living in Ireland for two years. The court heard evidence from his Irish fiancée, Ann Murphy, who said she was aware of his background but that he was of good character.

#### Silcott faces block to damages bid

The family of murdered policeman Keith Blakelock could take legal action to block damages awarded to Winston Silcott – the man cleared by the Appeal Court of his killing during riots in 1985. The Metropolitan Police Federation confirmed on Sunday night

that it was exploring legal moves to help the family bring a civil case. A spokesman said: "We are looking at ways of Mrs Blakelock and her sons getting legal aid to put a stay on any award Silcott gets ... he is constantly making waves for the family and causing problems. We would like him to have some problems of his own for a change. It is about time the public knew the truth and this is one

Silcott, 37, who is serving a life sentence for a different murder, was convicted of hacking to death PC Blakelock during riots in Tottenham, London. The verdict was later quashed by the Court of Appeal after hearing evidence that police had tampered with interview evidence.

#### Druid demands return of Excalibur



Arthur Pendragon, a druid whose sword "Excalibur" was confiscated when he was arrested at a London demonstration in support of sacked Liverpool dockers on Saturday, said he may go to the High Court to win its return. Mr Pendragon, 43, of Farnborough, Hampshire, is charged with possessing a sword with a blade longer than 7.62cm in Northumberland Avenue, in London's West End, on Saturday.

Resplendent in white flowing robes emblazoned with a red dragon, Mr Pendragon said he was lost without Excalibur and wanted the sword returned so he could carry out his ceremonial

"I am a sword bearer and without my sword I am nothing," he

Mr Pendragon, who believes he is the reincarnation of King Arthur (pictured) added: "I have the sword with me wherever I go, I even sleep with it. It is never out of its sheath, except in ritual and ceremony". He said he had agreed to be bailed only because his deposit and nomination papers need to be in by 4pm on Wednesday in the Aldershot constituency where is to stand as an

#### London marathon victim named

A man who died during the London Marathon on Sunday has been

named as 44-year-old James Herbert from Plymouth.

Teams of St John Ambulance volunteers tried to resuscitate Mr
Herbert, but he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at St Thomas' Hospital at 3.39nm.

Mr Herbert was the fifth competitor to die in the event's 17-yearhistory. More than 29,000 competitors took part in the race this

#### More Scottish food poisoning cases

The number of possible cases of salmonella food poisoning linked with a Perth hotel has now reached 125, health officials said last

night.

Fifty-nine cases have been confirmed and a further 66 are suspected, said officials from Tayside Health Board investigating the scare at the Isle of Skye Hotel. Officials said the outbreak control team was now "fairly sure" the outbreak was under control, although the number of confirmed cases is expected to continue rising over the next few days. Investigators are to redouble their



Val Kilmer, one of Hollywood's favourite leading men, last night attended the premiere in London of his latest screen incarnation – Simon Templar – in the big-screen version of The Saint. The Balman star was reputedly paid £4m for the role. The film opens nationwide on 18 April.

### Heroic ex-policemen who acted more like the SAS

wo former policemen recalled yesterday how they 🔝 in their 50s and with 30 years service in the police, had risked their lives by diving on top of an exploding grenade in a restaurant in Ethiopia – an act of bravery more akin to the SAS than the average constable's

John Bown and Blair Davies, who used to serve with the Northamptonshire and Derbyshire forces, suffered serious lacerations as they took the brunt of the blast which rocked the Blue Tops restaurant in the East African country's capital, Addis Ababa, on Saturday

Their actions may well have saved the lives not only of their wives, with whom they were dining, but also the other guests in the restaurant. Neither man was specially trained in anti-terrorist measures.

The blast has forced the Foreign Office to review its advice to travellers to Ethiopia and to warn that furth attacks on high-profile Western targets cannot be ruled

Speaking from their hospital beds in Addis Ababa yesterday, Mr Bown and Mr Davies recalled the harrowing seconds after they saw the grenade fly into the centre of the restaurant. "We instinctively threw ourselves on the explosive to

protect our wives from serious injuries," said Mr Bown, a former superintendent. 'Thank God our wives escaped with light injuries."

Mr Davies added: "Our injuries are painful but not lifethreatening." It was still not clear last night whether the men, both

been deliberately targeted because of the nature of their work in Ethiopia - they are part of a three-man team in-volved in a £4.9m British Government training programme to restructure the Ethiopian police force. Their year-long project was due to finish next month.

The men's present employer, a contractor called RIPA international, paid tribute to them.

Lawrence Eaton, the company's director, said: "It was a bloody brave thing to do and very impressive. We're now working hard to get them back to Britain. As far as we can gather there was no question of them being personal targets."
After visiting the men in hospital, a British Embassy

nurse, Janet Duff, said their conditions were "improving steadily".

"They are able to chat and they are feeling an awful lot better than they did on Saturday night. Things are looking good for a full recovery, but they are still in quite a lot of pain from their injuries," she said. Saturday's incident was the latest in series of attacks

on hotels in Ethiopia in the past 15 months, according to the Foreign Office.

"Various political groups are thought to be responsible for the attacks. Their aims are to discredit and embarrass the government by attacking further high profile targets," said an FO spokesman.

Further indiscriminate attacks cannot be ruled out and visitors should be alert at all times.

Matthew Brace

### briefing

#### **ASTRONOMY**

#### Satellite data proves stars are younger than Universe

Astronomers can breathe easy: the stars really are younger than the universe. It turns out that a key "ruler" used to measure interstellar distances - and hence, by inference, the age of stars and galaxies - has been wrong by between 10 and 15 per cent.

According to Neill Reid at the California Institute of Technology, data from the European Space Agency's Hipparcos satellite leads to the conclusion that the oldest stars in the universe are actually 11 to 13 billion years old, rather than 16 to 18 billion years old, as

had been thought.

The new results, to appear in July's Astrophysical Journal, will be of great interest to cosmologists, Dr Reid says, because estimates of the age of the universe, based on tracking back the current rate of expansion, suggest that the Big Bang occurred no more than about 13 to 15 billion years ago. "The ideal sitution would be to have the same answer independently given by stellar modeling and cosmology," he said.

Dr Reid's method focuses on the types of stars found in globular clusters – spherical accumulations of hundreds of thousands of individual stars. These have long been known to be the among the composed mainly of hydrogen and helium, and because the clusters themselves are distributed throughout a sphere 100,000 light years in diameter, rather than confined, like the sun, within the flattened pancake of the galactic disk.

Charles Arthur. earliest objects to form in the universe, since the stars are

#### TRANSPORT

#### High price of getting around

Britons spend 15 per cent of their household outgoings on transport - twice the amount they did 44 years ago, according to a report published today. Although people own more cars, the amount of time they spend travelling has also increased, the report from environmental group Transport 2000 found.

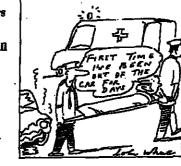
The average household now spends £36.17 per week on motoring

and £6.64 on fares and other travel costs, said the report, Vital Travel Statistics. This transport spending accounts for 15 per cent of household weekly spending, compared with just 7 per cent in

The report also found that the amount of time a person spends

travelling each week rose from five bours and 47 minutes in 1975 to six hours and 53 minutes in 1994. Shopping trips are said to account for 22 per cent of all

journeys. In the year 1975-76, the proportion of work trips by car was 39 per cent in London and 54 per cent in small urban areas. By the mid-1990s this had increased to 49 per cent for Londoners and 73 for for those in small urban areas.



#### INDUSTRY

#### Firms find skills shortage

The extent of Britain's skills shortage problem was highlighted yesterday when a survey reported that firms were unhappy with the expertise of job applicants. Two out of three organisations said there were shortages of suitably skilled applicants, especially in retailing. The public sector and charities were also badly affected, the survey of 557 organisations by recruitment specialists Reed

Personnel Services found.

The biggest shortage of skills was reported in the South West.

East Anglia, Scotland, the Home Counties, the Midlands, Wales and the South. The North East, the North West and Thames Valley were better off than other regions.

Reed chairman Alec Reed said: "Skills shortages have clearly emerged as one of the most crucial issues facing UK business

#### **AGRICULTURE**

#### BSE affects nearly all herds

More than 90 per cent of Britain's 9 million cows belong to a herd which has had a clinical case of BSE, or mad cow disease, in the past eight years, according to new calculations by Stephen Dealler. an independent scientist. Other research, by Nick Short at the University of Reading, suggests that BSE could persist in British cattle until 2010 - far longer than the Government has claimed in

its negotiations with Brussels.

The result of the first findings is that if Britain regains permission to export cattle from BSE-free herds – one of the main political aims of Douglas Hogg, the Minister for Agriculture, in his battle with the European Commission – it would barely begin to help the beef export business to recover.

Last year the EU ban on British beef effectively killed off the £500m export market. But because so few cows belong to herds which have been BSE-free, the economic impact of restarting exports would be minimal.

More than 160,000 cases of BSE have been recorded in British cattle, and calculations last year by a team at Onford University suggested that another 700,000 infected animals would have entered the food chain between 1986 and 1995.

#### SOCIETY

#### Prostitution prospers in South

A Channel 4 documentary will tonight reveal the results of an extensive survey into prostitution. The research shows that of the men questioned the majority live in London (24 per cent) and the South (29 per cent), with fewer coming from the North and the Midlands. Almost all the men were white, and evenly split between professional or skilled worker and recognized to skilled worker and recognized to skilled worker. professional or skilled workers and manual or unskilled.

Prostitutes working in massage parlours or advertising through cards, magazines and newspapers proved to be the most popular, while kerb-crawling ranked as one of the least favoured methods of approaching a prostitute.

proacting a prostitute.

Witness: Men Who Pay For Sex, Channel 4, tonight, 9pm

Colin Blackstock.

#### ARE YOU SUBSIDISING **DISHONEST CLAIMANTS?**

Some people disguise the

fact they've made lots of insurance claims by changing their insurance company. That way they

avoid paying higher

premiums. But at General

dishonest.

General Accident Direct

Accident Direct we can trace their insurance histories. So we don't make you subsidise the

FOR BUILDINGS & CONTENTS INSURANCE FREEPHONE 0800 121 004 PAY BY INSTALMENTS INTEREST FREE

MOTOR 0800 121 000 MORTGAGE PAYMENT PROTECTION 0800 121 008 - TRAVEL 0800 121 007 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Applies to Home and Motor insurance only. Written details on request.

http://www.ga.co.uk/gadirect

#### Topless Melinda criticised in advertising report

Page three model Melinda Messenger and Tony Blair make a joint appearance today - not in the Sun, but in advertisements criticised by the Advertising Standards Authority.

Ms Messenger was used last year by a small Gloucester double glazing company in a press and poster campaign. The ad featured Ms Messenger peering through a window in her underwear Once it was spotted she was whisked to London by the Sun, which had been looking for a model it could turn into a "Sam Fox for the Nineties".

However, in its most recent monthly report, the ASA upheld four complaints from the public about the Glevum Window Systems ad, and deemed its sexual

innuendo "offensive and unnecessary". The company, which paid £120 for the photograph, claims that the pictures were so popular they were being stolen from bus shelters. In a blow to the sophisticates of the advertising industry it also maintains that the photograph increased sales of its windows by 25 per cent.

Meanwhile. Tony Blair appeared in the ASA's second most complained about ad of 1996 - the Conservatives' "demon eyes" campaign. The ASA criticised it not for its apparent attribution of satanic



qualities to the Labour leader, but because he was portrayed without his permission. The ad attracted 167 complaints.

The most complained about advertisement of all last year was a poster for a Gossard bra that featured a woman re-clining on hay in her underwear above the slogan: "Who says woman can't get pleasure from something soft." It received 312 complaints after Lynda Lee Potter in the Daily Mail drew it to the attention of her readers.

Overall, complaints about advertising were down in 1996. Paul McCann

### Cricket legend's widow honoured

The widow of cricket legend Stuart Surridge yesterday went out to bat for sporting equality by becoming the first woman president of a county cricket club. Betty Surridge - whose husband cap-

tained Surrey County Cricket Club through five successive championship wins in the 1950s - took over the team's presidency from John Paul Getty at the annual general meeting at the Oval, south London.

Mrs Surridge, who describes herself as "70 several", said she was "obviously honoured" to head the team, which her husband led through the glory years of 1952-56, and for which her son "Tiger"

Surridge also played. But the grandmother, who admits she only plays cricket "on the beach", said

she would not be initiating radical changes to bowl out sporting chauvin-Ism. "I think the job's a figurehead," she

"But what I am good at is meeting peo-ple. I know a lot of cricketing people and I shall help entertain."

Mrs Surridge - who will be banned from entering the Long Room at Lord's because of her sex – said she hoped her new role would improve the status of women in cricket. And she said the county club - the first

to allow women into the pavilion - had been wholeheartedly in favour of her

"There's been no opposition, at least not in my hearing. They're all over the moon," she said.

#### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria ..... Sch40 Milands ..... F15.00 Cananes ... Pts300 Maders ... Esc325 Opprus .....43 cents Denmark . . . . Diz18 Nonvay . . . . Nix20 Inish Rep . . . . . . 450 Portugal . . . Esc3.25 France .......Pr14 Spain ...... Pr£300 Germany ....DM4.5 Sweden..... Str.21. Greece ..... Dr450 Setzerland . Str4,00 DO.EZ......AZÜ ÜĞEL.. galadırındır.

OVERSEAS STRECKTPTIONS Air mail, 13 weeks: Europe £110.76: Zone I (Middle East, America, Africa and India) £184.08; Zone 2 (Far East and Australiasia) 2308.70. To order, please send cheaping payable to Johnsons International Madia Services List to 43 Millionbour, London E14 STR or Interphone (1) 71-538 8288. Credit costs welcome. BACK ISSUES Back issues of the Independent are available from

Historia Newspapers, telephone 01988 840370.

in Island

The second secon

Service of the servic

3.00

YTHE INDEPENDENT online every day on AUL

Call 0800 376 5376 for FREE software - quote "independent"

in the first half of 1996



**NEWSPAPERS** SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers

المكذا من الأصل

## Wealthier, wiser, so why not healthier?

Our lives are longer though affluence has not helped cut sickness

Gienda Cooper and Jeremy Laurance

around

ga egyngha 11 - 1.

e in the agent of the second

on the month traffe, the it or in travel the idea tal mich na mann

of the report link er . . . auf a lar 15 per cent

en auth fact fet cent a

Hage

。 医电线线

. 11...1.

10.5% Mg

 $(x,y) \approx 2\pi N$ 

and a state of the state of the

A Legisland and in British

. . . In Apple Date

and the state of t

for 11 th main for 12 th main without in the

HETS IN SOUTH

all herds

The number of people living to the age of 100 is set to increase tenfold by 2031 with estimated figures putting the number of

centenarians at 45,000.
While the trend suggests greater life expectancy, we are living longer in sickness, not in health, according to a report from the Office For National Statistics, which surveyed adult health from 1841-1994.

Life expectancy has almost doubled in 150 years, but healthy life expectancy has failed to rise significantly.

Medicine has contributed little to this improvement compared to changes in diet, housing and sanitation. Medical advances are estimated to have added five of the extra 30 years by which life expectancy has improved this century.

A large part of the improvement is due to better maternity care and reduced infant mortality. A child born in 1841 could expect to live to 41 if it were a boy and 43 if it were a girl. Its equivalent in 1991 could expect to live to 73 if male or 79 if female.

Between 1951 and 1991 the number of centenarians grew from 300 to 4,400, a rate of increase of 7 per cent a year, roughly doubling every 10 years. At the same time, it is thought that maximum recorded ages for men and women in England and Wales (at present

115] will rise to at least 118 or 119 or even more. In France, where life expectancy is higher, Jeanne Calment celebrated her 122nd



	72			
	Victo	orian		
Y.	r ja pised			
	a tree tree		<b>47</b> 5 8	
**************************************		102,1	<b>1.75</b> 1	
300 m		el year	Z000	<b>A</b>
relativant	e dener	174	24	
			36	
		MAD WE	5	
- 12 <del>- 1</del> - 1			T.	

shows. Mike Murphy, of Oxford University and co-editor of the study, said: "It is almost an ironclad law the world around that married people do better. It has

neighbours, church, and

Edwardian

through work appear to be im-portant for good health. Death sis and other infectious diseases has been the most important cause of improving rates are higher for single, widowed and divorced people but. life expectancy. In Victorian

have risen from fewer than one in 10 in 1911 to more than one

Life Expectancy

Main cause of death

Age at marriage [women]

Population under 15[%]

Population over 64 [%]

in four in 1991. In the last 25 years, mortalbirthday earlier this year.

been frue since statistics became marriage appears to protect times, ity has improved, but there has three years in life expectancy men more than women infections accounted for one in the order of good health, the study. Contacts with relatives: Over the last ceatury, the decided has compared with the number of years of healthy years of life gained may be ity has improved, but there has three years in life expectancy

one in 200 today. Cancer deaths life. At 65, a man can look forward to seven years of healthy life, which has remained unchanged since the mid-1970s,

1940's

Drink (litres of pure alcohol per year) 4

Smoking (kg per person per year)

Divorce rate per 1,000 couples

extra years of life with a disability," says the report. In 1988, an ONS survey found 61 per cent of men over despite an increase of almost 75 and 71 per cent of women had a long-standing illness. disability or infirmity.

Life Expectancy

Main cause of death

Age at marriage [women]

Population under 15[%]

Population over 64[%]

Drink (litres of pure alcohol per year) 7

Smoking (kg per person per year)

Divorce rate per 1,000 couples

population is becoming more overweight. Smoking has fallen since the 1970s, but there has been little change among women aged 16-24 in the last 10 years. Alcohol consumption has been stable amongst men. Recent studies found the but is rising amongst women.

16

73(M) 79(F)

### Nike swears off slave labour



A landless girl beside Highway PR-158 in Paraña, Brazil, one of the images from photojournalist Sebestião Salgado's Terra: Struggle of the landless, which is taunched on Thursday as an exhibition at St James's Church, Piccadilly, in London and at eight other locations and as a book (Phaldon, £35) Full details, 'Let my people go', The Tabloid

David Usborne New York

If Tiger Woods had a second for politics yesterday, he may have found one more reason to feel relief. Nike, corporate sponsor for the vaunted young winner of this weekend's golf Masters, is swearing off exploitation.

In a key battle in the war for improved conditions in Third World sweatshops Nike and other US clothing giants like LL Bean and Liz Claiborne signed a code of conduct on employment practices around the globe.

The unprecedented agreement, initialled at the White House with President Clinton, is an attempt by the companies to reverse months of disastrous publicity generated by reports of treatment of factory workers around the globe that has ranged from unfair to umane. Nike has been the worst hit.

-which reportedly punished 56 workers in Vietnam by forcing them to run in the sun until several collapsed - has burt

some of its stars also. As a rolemodel for racial integration, Mr Woods, who has a mixed African-American and Thai

heritage - has not escaped.

Negotiated over several months by the companies with human rights organisations. international labour representatives and the Clinton administration, the code includes provisions for outside monitors to visit individual factories and check for violations.

Additionally, the corporations will undertake to honour a 60-hour maximum working week - with the possibility of "voluntary" overtime - and to respect the minimum wage laws of the countries in which plants are located. Nor will they be allowed to employ workers under the age of fourteen.

In return, companies abiding by the code will be able to sew "No Sweat" labels into their products to reassure shoppers that in spending their money The revelations about Nike they are not indirectly supporting slave labour. It is not clear that when violations are found they will be Midiand Bank plc reserves the right not to open an account. Credit subject to status. Call 0800 180 180 for full written details.

68(M) 74(F)

11



Midland Bank introduces the handy £50 Buffer Zone.



We think it's unfair to charge people for slipping a few pounds in the red, that's why we've introduced a safety margin of up to £50. A penalty-free Buffer Zone that's always there should you need it.

If you need an overdraft, you could now apply for one up to £3,000 and with no set-up charges or monthly fees.

The Buffer Zone is just one of the many bright ideas that we've built into the new Midland



Complete the coupon in block capitals and return to: Midland Bank pic, FREEPOST SWB 332, Bristol, BS1 6BR. Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Other (please specify) Evening tel no (inc. STD) Do you hold other Midland accounts? 🗆 Yes 🗀 No (please tidd). May we send you information about our products and services in future? 🗀 Yes 🗀 No (please tidd).

#### TOMORROW IN \* THE INDEPENDENT

#### Your essential election guide A detailed electoral map of

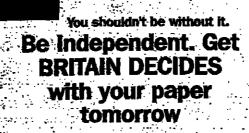
What are you doing on 1 May? Voting? Going out? Sleeping? Channel switching through the night?

Whichever way, your democratic wellbeing will be greatly enhanced if you buy a copy of The Independent this Wednesday.

Free with the paper we are offering a 20-page election special -BRITAIN DECIDES - that gives you an all-round take out and least suide to the election. Some of the highlights are:

A manifesto summary, which enables you to score the parties' key policies.

 Your own tactical voting guide. Polly Toynbee. explains how.



escape from it all.

Britain, and a swingometer

on the night.

on the night.

that will help you check which way the vital marginals are falling

Features on the minor parties,

along with lively interviews – and

a few suggestions on how to

A guide to television coverage

Y THE INDEPENDENT IT IS ... ARE YOU?

BRITAIN

## Parents of heart-op boy 'not told of risk'

Doctors at Harefield hospital were so convinced a baby should have a heart implant that they failed to tell his parents of the risk that he might suffer irreversible brain damage, a judge heard yesterday.

Matthew Poynter, 16 months old, was given a new heart at the hospital, in west London, by the surgeon Sir Magdi Yacoub in December 1987. It is still serving him well after 10 years but the brain damage he suffered rendered him "very very significantly disabled", said Simeon Maskrey QC, for his parents, Kevin and Linda Poynter, who are suing Hillingdon Health Authority for damages on their son's behalf.

The staff at Harefield are dedicated, caring people who believe in heart transplants," Mr Maskrey told High Court judge Sir Maurice Drake. "They believed it was the duty of the parents to agree to a transplant. It was their view that it was utterly wrong to turn down the offer. They were faced with parents who, frustratingly from their point of view, were unprepared to take the opportunity. So one doesn't spell out the disadvantages if one is trying to persuade parents to take a course which one believes passionately is in the child's interests."

Mr and Mrs Poynter, from Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, who have two other children, say that if they had been told of the risks, they would have let Matthew die in peace rather than allow the operation to proceed.

The health authority argues that the risks of major brain damage are so small that doctors are under no legal duty to

Infra-red technology developed for guided missiles is to be

A new kind of infra-red brain scanner will help to prevent

brain damage in babies by

showing if they are being starved of oxygen during birth.

doctors from University College London, shines infra-red light

The scanner, developed by

used to save babies' lives.

give a warning and that, in any event, a warning was given in Matthew's case.

Mr Maskrey told the judge: "It may seem to many in this court ... to be churlish to be critical of them ... but the lives of patients don't belong to the medical profession and we say



Yacoub: Did the transplant surgery on 16-month-old boy

it was not the function of the hospital or the staff to over-persuade or to minimise the risks or accentuate the benefits in order to get the consent they thought was necessary ... The parents were entitled to have an appropriate full explanation of what the benefits and the drawbacks were. The hospital was so keen or so frustrated with the

parents that this was not done." The parents did not see Sir Magdi until after the operation and at that time there was no formal counselling procedure in place, said Mr Maskrey.

in the birth canal. The amount

of light reflected indicates the

amount of oxygen in the blood

supply to the brain. If there is

not enough, doctors can simply

hundreds of babies each year

suffer permanent brain damage

Dr John Wyatt, who is leading the University College re-search team, said: "Many

give more to the mother.

which the left ventricle becomes enlarged and fails to contract properly. He held his own at first but became desperately ill after suffering colds and a chest infection.

His parents had a variety of objections to heart transplants, said Mr Maskrey. Mr Poynter "regarded the heart as more than a simple pump" and in 1987 transplant surgery for in-

fants was in its early days.

Although they knew Matthew's life expectancy without the operation would be weeks or even days, Mr and Mrs Poynter went through agonies of indecision before giving consent. They alleged they were put under a "significant degree of pressure" by the hospital.

A donor heart arrived on 19 December 1987 and Matthew was taken to the operating theatre. His heart was kept going with massage for 30 minutes before he was attached to a bypass pump. It was believed the brain damage occurred during this period. It was "perhaps ironic" that, from the cardiac point of view, the implant was Mr Poynter told the judge:

We lost the happy child we had before the operation, which turned him into a little boy who is very distressed and crying most of the time." He said he and his wife did not get any support from the hospital, before or after the operation, for their views or the way they felt. 'Matthew was treated just as a person ready for transplant. It was a purely mechanical job, taking one heart out and putting

and a poor blood supply to the

uses infra-red light, has the po-

tential to prevent many of these

cases from occurring each year, although further trials will be

Dr Wyatt and his team have

predicted that, if the device is

used widely, the number of

Caesarean operations would

Powerful PC Manifesto

2 GATERIAI 2000

brain during delivery.

Matthew, born in August another one in, disregarding 1986, developed a condition in anything human about it. The anything human about it. The heart is not just a pump. It is part of the person, part of the mind, body and soul. Just to reduce it to something mechanical is missing the whole point about life."

The doctors expected them to agree to the transplant because "somehow we were failing as parents if we didn't. We were fold Matthew had an excellent chance of pulling through and he would have two or three extra years. But for us they had to be quality years, otherwise it would not be worth it. We were after quality of life for Matthew. We didn't want ... extra time that wasn't quality time."

Mrs Poynter, who is expecting her fourth child, told the court of the reaction of one of the medical team. Richard Kirk. when she told him she did not want Matthew to have a transplant. She alleged he said: "If you continue saying that, we will have to consider whether or not

to get a court order."

The judge had been told ear-lier by Mr Maskrey that the health authority was not intending to argue that a court order sanctioning the transplant could have or should have been

Matthew is incapable of do-ing anything for himself and will need lifelong nursing care. He can move his head a little, can see bright lights and laugh and cry, but cannot communicate in

any other way.

The judge is being asked to decide only the question of liability. Any damages found due will be assessed at a later date. The hearing continues today.

than a hunch.

cheaper.

■ Intel 166MHz Pentium "Processor with MMX" technology

■ Integrated Creative Labs Sound Card with Alter Lansing

■ Integrated ATI GT 3D 2MB SGRAM Graphics Accelerator

£1499 (£1795.40 inc. VAT & Delivery)

MS Office Professional 97 Upgrade. Call for details.

Call our Friendly Sales Team now or call in to the

Gateway 2000 Showroom, 10 Bedford Street,

Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HE. You'll be

■ 32MB High Performance SDRAM

■ 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive

■ Mitsumi 12-16X (min-max) CD-ROM ■ Western Digital \* 2.5GB ETDE Hard Drive

AC\$41 Speakers, AC\$251 Sub-woofer

■ EuroVn/a 33.6K Fax/Data/Voice Modem

MS Office 97 Small Business Edition Plus

Showroom Hours of Business:

9.30 am - 6.30 pm Tuesday - Friday

12.30 pm - 6.30 pm Mondays

■ Software Pack Enhanced for MMX technology

■ Microsoft\* Windows\* 95 125 Any Key\* Keyboard

■ 256K Pipeline Burst Cache

■ 17" CrystalScan" Monitor

■ Internet Software Bundle

■ 3 Year Limited Warranty

glad you did!

MS\* Windows 95, MS Intelline

charity Action Research.



Vehicle of ambition: Viveca Avestedt sitting in the car she hopes will break the 300mph barrier Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

### Drag queen who aims to cover a quarter of a mile in five seconds

Viveca Avestedt must be about the only 'Drag Queen" aiming to cover a quarter of a mile in less than five seconds.

The Swedish driver, a three-time former Swedish body-building champion, has dominated European drag racing this year. She is now about to launch an attempt to break the 300mph barrier and the European speed

Her car for the quarter-mile attempt is the length of a double-decker bus with go-kart style front wheels the diameter of those on a normal Ford Fiesta. Its back wheels are lorry-like but have no tread and the spoiler at the back of the

car stands higher than 6ft, The vehicle comes complete with the ear-splitting wail generated by 5,000bhp and a huge appetite for fuel - it guzzles two litres every second. Running costs for it are £10,000 per meeting and £500,000 for a whole season. A second-

hand car similar to the one driven by Avestedt would cost around £250,000. "The G-force when I start feels that I've run into a brick wall," Avestedt said.
"The feeling of exhaustion after a race must be like having just run a marathon. I think you have to be slightly mad to get into the cockpit and put your foot down. It requires extreme

concentration and razor-sharp

reactions." Avestedt, 35, began drag racing in 1986, starting in a Ford Anglia and moving into top-level drag racing in 1992. Her record attempt will take place next weekend at Santa Pod raceway in

### Court told of regime of fear against mentally ill

Louise Jury

Mentally ill patients in private care suffered 10 years of illtreatment and fear in two residential homes which were more akin to an army camp, a

court was told yesterday.
Patients, including two with Down's Syndrome and another who was blind, were left without dignity by the authoritarian and punitive regime at the homes in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, Kingston Crown Court was told. The catalogue of abuses endured by the residents including being slapped. being pulled by the hair and having jugs of cold water thrown

over them, it was claimed. They were denied toilet paper and other items and one woman was forced to eat outside on the patio in only light clothing even in the pouring rain. One group of residents, known as the "working lads", was made to work outside in the grounds without proper supervision every day and in all weather, even when they did not want to, it was claimed. They also helped builders at the private home of Gordon and An-

gela Rowe, who ran the residential home, the court heard. Angela Rowe, 39, a former director of Longcare Limited which ran Stoke Place Mansion



Rowe: 'No formal training for caring for the handicapped

denies four charges of ill-treating and two of neglecting mentally disordered patients in her care between 1983 and 1993. Desmond Tully, 33, who was described as effectively the manager of Stoke Place for several years, denies five charges of illtreating patients. And Lorraine

visor, also denies five counts of ill-treatment under 1983 Mental Health Act. The court was told that Gordon Rowe would have faced charges but had committed suicide in March last year. Jonathan Caplan QC, prosecuting, said: "Undoubtedly he was forceful personality whose influenced pervaded the daily lives of both residents and staff."

However, Mr Caplan added that the residential homes were a joint enterprise for Mr Rowe and his wife and she was a director and near half-owner in the business. She and the other two defendants before the court were aware of what was going on in the home and illtreated some of the residents, Mr Caplan said.

The court heard that the two homes accommodated about 70 adult residents aged from 26 to 64 years who had mental ages of between three and six years. "Both of these homes were supposedly there to offer longterm care and training with a view to providing as happy and fulfilling a life for these residents as possible," Mr Caplan said.

Field, 42, a senior care super- Both homes were registered with Buckinghamshire County Council. "The prosecution case is that over a period of time various acts of ill-treatment and neglect were carried out which left these residents without dignity and which were carried out in an atmosphere at these homes which was very largely authoritarian and punitive." All three defendants had limited training for working with mentally dis-

abled people, Mr Caplan said. Angela Rowe, originally of Harrington Close, Windsor, had "never had any formal training with regards to caring for the mentally handicapped or persons with disabilities." Mr Tully, of Riverview Drive, Exwick, Exeter, did some courses with Somerset Social Services and spent a year on a social-care course. Field, 42, of Pennyletts Green, Stoke Poges, had previously worked in a hospital and a youth centre before joining

Longeare. Mr Caplan told the jury some of the evidence they would be hearing might be distressing but said they must not be swayed by their emotions and should judge it dispassionately.



into the baby's brain while it is because of a shortage of oxygen

At Gateway 2000, we believe that the best candidates will always win the day. That's why we're confident our impressive range of tailor-made PCs will win your nomination.

Unlike other manifestos you may have read recently, Gateway 2000's is concise and to the point. We provide state-of-the-art desktops, multi-talented multimedia systems and high performance portables, all featuring the latest technology from leading suppliers. custom-built and configured for maximum power and speed and delivered to your door. And we pledge

that every Galeway 2000; PC represents the highest quality at great value for money.

FLEXIBLE BUSINESS

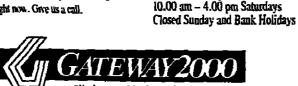
FINANCE OPTION.

CALL FOR DETAILS

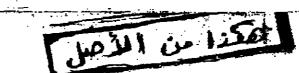
The whole family will vote for the P5-1n6 Multimedia, featuring a IntoMhz Intel Pentium' processor with MMX" technology, 32MB of SDRAM and a 2.5GB EIDE hard drive - it boasts maximum power and special accelerating and enhancing all your applications. It's also got a Milsumi 12-16 speed CD-ROM, a 2MB SGRAM graphics accelerator and a package of pre-loaded Microsoft" software which includes Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Plus.

All Galeway 2000 PCs are backed up with award-winning service and support, including free telephone technical support on all hardware and software for as long as you own your PC, plus a 30-day no-quibble money-back guarantee ishipping costs not refundable) and Gateway Militarian (IIII)

The Gateway 2000 Party. Whatever your persuasion we provide the right computing solutions, at the right prices, right now. Give us a call.



Gateway 2000, Claushaugh Industrial Estate, Dublin 17, Ireland. 2000, Cleaninghia Indianatria Estano, aranema es que como - forma partir artigado y tropa propria de la como entre de la c



news

## Terrified of failure, children run away from home rather than face their exams

The prospect of returning to school to face summer exams has led to a surge in the num-ber of children being reported missing. With pre-teenagers now having to sit formal examinations in state schools, child psychologists are reporting a marked increase in exam-

The National Missing Persons helpline said yesterday that its daily workload had increased by 20 per cent as children baulk at going back to school for the summer term. Children as young as 11 have called the charity saying that they cannot cope with their

workload at school Janet Newman, co-founder of the helpline, said parents were often unwittingly putting children under too much pressure to achieve better results. She added: "It is not intentional. If is not until the child goes missing that parents realise how much pressure they were under. They should not feel guilty but they should realise that children

("Ner a

year-olds were especially vulnerable to exam nerves. As-12-year-olds they were less aware of the importance of the tests and the pain of failure.

The numbers of missing schoolchildren are expected to remain high for several weeks as youngsters realise how much work they still have to do for their summer exams. The helpline is already receiving up to 30 extra cases a day and many of them are believed to be because of the exam problem. Jane Pearson, who runs the

charity's Message Home system, said: We are certainly getting an increase in the younger age group ringing in about school-work. Eleven-year-olds have raised the issue."

She said youngsters would call in from railway stations or hostels with messages for their families, adding: "They were scared to go to school because they could not cope with the exams. Rather than go into school

they have just run."

These join the estimated 250,000 included in the statis-



David Hicken (left) and Paddy Warren at a party last Christmas. They have been missing for 15 weeks; Patrick's face has been printed on thousands of four-pint milk cartons to help find him

tics of children who go missing each year. In an attempt to slow the tide, the charity has today began putting the faces of some of the missing children on milk cartons in the hope that they will be identified. The face of 12year-old Patrick Warren has been printed on to thousands of four-pint milk cartons at Iceland supermarkets across Britain. Malcolm Walker, Iceland's

labels to print a photograph and brief details of a missing child is an ideal way of circulating vital information. Patrick and his friend David

Spencer, 13, have been missing for 15 weeks after claiming they were going to spend the night at Patrick's brother's home. However, they never turned up.
Christine Hicken, David's iust come out of junior school and he felt that everybody was

chairman, said: "Using milk" mother, said the pressure of school may have been a factor in his disappearance from home in Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham. Although he enjoyed arts and science lessons, David had been unable to cope with English lessons and had been

excluded from school after disrupting lessons. "He had only

there on their own. They may be street-wise but they are still babies." she said.

A-level student Andrew Smith, now 19, has been missing from his home in Poole. Dorset, for 16 months, after experiencing problems with his

Large numbers of university students are also expected to go

dren from being overwhelmed by the scale of their work by missing in the coming weeks as finals and first-year exams get nearer. Many students who have called the charity's meshelping them draw up a revision schedule. He said: "While the sage home system have expressed a wish to drop out after being pressured by school and family into taking a subject which they did not enjoy.

Christopher Nickolls, senior educational psycholo-gist, said parents could help chil-

exam period may seem like an enormous single obstacle, if the child can be encouraged to break his revision down to manageable segments then reassurance and confidence grows."

Mr Nickolls said 45-minute bursts of work were most effective for GCSE students, followed by 20-minute relaxation periods. Children also draw satisfaction from crossing off each segment of completed revision on a check list.

He said families should also make it clear to the child that there was life after exams. "Instead of talking about possible results, parents should be biting their tongues and offering love, support and security. They should also remind children that the world is full of successful men and women who failed their initial examinations," he said.

■ The National Missing Persons Message Home helpline can be contacted on 0500 700740.

### Student hanged herself before finals

ty student used a cond to hang herself just weeks before she was due to take her final exams, an inquest beard yes-

Sarah Naputi: 21, was found by her Canadian flance. I as the Thanday afternoon in the bedroom of her home rust a stone stinuw from Lady, Martinet Hall.

Ms Napak, a third-year his-tory student at Lady Margaret Hall, who recently won a Kennedy Scholarship to

scribed as "outstanding and academically gifted" by her At the opening of her in-quest at John Radeliffe Hos-

pital in Oxford, Coroner Mr Nicholas Gardiner was told that Ms Napuk, of West Saville Row, Edinburgh, had used a cord to hang herself. The cause of death was givg and the en as asphyria by hanging.

rector Kerry and his wife, Angela, who had travelled south following the tragedy, were not at the two-minute hear-

> Mr Gardiner released Ms Napuk's body so she can be cremated at a funeral service. The inquest was opened and adjourned to a later date for further inquiries to be carried out.



## Everywhere. Now. It's everything you need to keep in touch. Phone, fax, e-mail, the internet. Put it in your pocket and take it everywhere. The Nokia 9000 Communicator appearing in The Saint film. At cinemas everywhere now. Pick up a Saint leaflet at participating retailers and play The Saint Internet game with Nokia to get a chance to win £100,000 worth of prizes.

At selected outlets of Dixons, Dixons Tax Free, Peoples Phone, Talkland,

The Carphone Warehouse or The Link stores.



	£1- £4,999	£5,000- £9,999	£10,000- £24,999	£25,000- £49,999	£50,000- £99,999	£100,000+
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.50%	5.00%	5.60%	5.75%	6.00%	6.10%
Halifax Bonus Gold (60 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	4.65%	4.90%	5.05%	5.35%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	3.50%	4.20%	4.80%	5.10%	5.90% <sup>††</sup>
Nationwide Capitalbuilder 90 Day	4.00% <sup>†</sup>	4.30%	4.50%	4.80%	5.10%	5.10%

All rates are gross\* and correct at 7th April 1997. Source: Moneylacts. TRate offective from £1,000. \*\*Rate effective from £200,000.

- · Whatever you're saving for you'll get it quicker if you save with Direct Line.
- · Especially since our rates have recently risen again.
- And with Direct Line you get instant acress to your money as well as higher rates.
- The more savings you have the higher our rates get. You can pool your savings with family or friends for even
- higher returns. · So make the most of your savings, move them to Direct Line.

0181 667 1121

www.directline.co.uk • ITV Teletext page 377.

0161 833 1121

0141 221 1121

**GLASGOW** 

A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

LONDON MANCHESTER CALLANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND62

## Riba's portals rocked by plot to oust chief



Revolution is stirring behind the handsome portals of the Roy-al Institute of British Architects. Some members of Riba, which represents one of Britain's most civilised professions, are plotting to oust their director-general in a coup.

Opponents of Alex Reid, who was appointed to the senior executive post three years ago, have forced a special meeting

for today, to discuss whether he to silence, and even ordinary should be dismissed. Mr Reid, members are reluctant to disa former military pilot, will be asked to answer grievances before the council members vote on his future.

Discontent about Mr Reid will come to a head at the meeting, which is taking place behind closed doors at the Riba's central London headquarters in Portland Place. The subject matter is viewed

the culture of a place accustomed to being run like a gentleman's club. His backers praise him as a as so sensitive that all 61 coun-

members are reluctant to dis-

introspective and old-fashioned

Peter Lacey, the chairman of The council is believed to be Riba's south-west region, said yesterday that Mr Reid had split evenly between supporters and opponents of Mr Reid and turned the institute's finances those who are undecided. Mr Reid's critics regard him

as a high-handed and abrasive "If someone exercises strong manager who is out of step with management, it is likely to dis turb a number of people," Mr Lacey said.

"But that doesn't make it, or the individual responsible, strong management and, as a progressive, modern profession, we should welcome the provocations it can bring."

The unprecedented divisions have led to the formation of a breakaway "reform" group of architects who want to preserve the old ways.

Mr Reid, who worked mainly in industry before he was appointed, has had frequent confrontations with Owen Luder, the institute's elected pres-

One long-standing member said yesterday: "It's not like running a commercial company. He has to respect the professional ethos of architects.

Complaints which have been aired about Mr Reid include his derecognition of the staff union and the introduction of security swipe cards at Portland Place. He is also accused of formulating policy "on the hoof", instead of leaving such matters to the elected officials. His most unpopular move

was his dismissal of Peter Gibbs-Kennet, the director of education. Subsequently, Riba was informed by the Charity Commissioners that it had infringed their rules when it replaced Mr Gibbs-Kennet in the paid post with Chris Colburne, a council member with similar status to a trustee.

Mr Reid declined to comment before appearing at to-day's meeting, which required 10 signatures of council members in order to be called.

## are not liked by classmates

**Glenda Cooper** Social Affairs Correspondent

Schoolgirls who diet are less eat what they like, according to a new report.

The study of 314 girls from several schools comes as researchers said that most anorexic girls have an inherited brain disorder that pre-programmes them to starve themselves.

In the schools study, Robert Phillips from St Luke's Hospital, Huddersfield and Andrew Hill from Leeds University asked the children, all aged about 10, to pick the three girls with whom they would most like to socialise, and the three most

attractive girls in their class.
The girls on restrictive diets were significantly less popular and also seen as less attractive than others who were less concerned about what they ate. Ironically, girls on diets were also heavier and more dissatisfied with their weight and physical appearance than other girls.

The researchers say in their paper: "These findings highlight the social isolation of some girls who tend to be heavier than their peers, have low self-esteem, and are weight-concerned

Peer influences are both important and amenable to investigation," they added. "Further research is needed that

examines how peer groups pressure and protect girls attempts at weight control, at different ages and over time."

popular and judged less attrac-tive than their classmates who

The paper will be given today at an international conference on eating disorders organised by Great Ormond Street children's hospital in London and the British Journal of Hospital

Another paper to be given at the same conference reveals that most anorexia sufferers had reduced blood flow in an area of the brain governing appetite and visual perception.

Dr Bryan Lask, a consultant psychiatrist at Great Ormond Street, said if the abnormality affected visual perception, this could explain why anorexia sufferers think they are fat when they are dangerously thin.
The researchers carried out

brain scans of 19 children and teenagers with anorexia aged eight to 16. Those with the abnormality had significantly less blood flow in one temporal lobe than the other when the flow should be equal in both.

The researchers stressed, however, that psychological and social factors also played a part in who developed anorexia.

This is an exciting discovery, but it's only a small piece of a Saw. It does suggest ui2 these children have a neurological predisposition in terms of developing an eating disor-

# Girls who diet Chain reaction as Royal Academy picks paintings



Students holding up oil paintings yesterday for the Royal Academy's judging panel to choose a selection to be displayed at this year's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

Many

optional

upgrades

all models.

Please call

for details.

Personal

During the three-day selection process the judges, led by 650 other exhibits for the 229th show which will be held the Royal Academy's president, Sir Philip Dowson, with the galleries in Piccadilly, central London, from 1 June just 650 oil paintings from more than 6,000 on offer to join until 10 August.

### Murdered antiques dealer lived in fear of stalker

### **Notebooks from MESH** Superior by Design!

#### MESH COMPUTERS PLC been manufacturing **Award Winning Personal Computers** since 1987.

As a result of new strategic partnerships, we are able to offer the World's Leading Notebook Computers at extremely competitive prices.

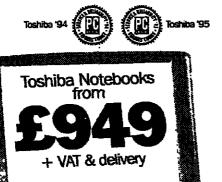
This special pricing is only available for orders placed on or before Saturday, 3rd of May.

Call our Notebook Division now on 0181 452 1111.

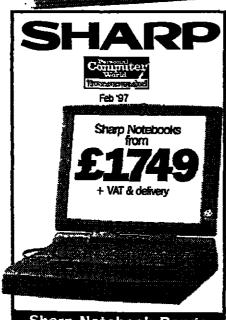
Model	CPU	500 R/M	100	CO POM	Screen	Price
11905	<b>PHD</b>	846	83040	· ·	113058	£346
11007	Più	SMb	<b>SECURITY</b>	-	MATH.	<b>E1399</b>
500CS	P).20	1614)	1255	Ж6	121'95D)	£1749
510CD\$	F138	16Ab	2,150	X10	12 1 17	£2999

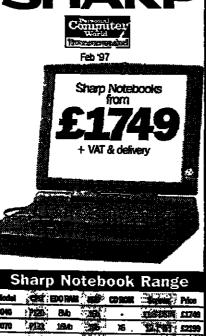


		~~~ <del>~</del> ~ -				
Sai	ทรเ	ing N	lote	eboo	k Ra	nge
Model	CFG	EDORMA		CDROM	Streets	Mee
U4ZE	7120	161-b	140	-	西北京	C1799
U42	7120	163-b	140	<b>X5</b>	12.5°FT	£3989
D94	P133	1614)	140	<b>X</b> 6	12.5 10	£2249
065	PES)	15%b	140	<b>X</b> 6	124 11	2500
3,	MAR (	7	& re	hama I I	Language	adv.



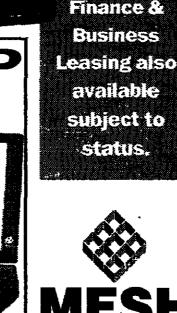


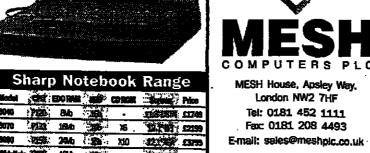




Affair P135 1646 188 182 182 182 18490

3 year collect & return UK warranty





Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent A jewellery dealer murdered in her home by an intruder had complained to police at least twice about a stalker, it was disavailable for closed yesterday. Carolanne Jackson, 50, who ran an antiques business from her home, was found tied up in the kitchen of her cottage in Wooburn Green, near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, on Sunday morning. She died from asphyziation and had se-vere head wounds. Police believe she could have been beaten by a burglar trying

> how to get into her safe, where a large amount of jewels were Detectives are also studying possibly links with an unsolved murder of another 50-year-old woman killed two years ago at ber home about 20 miles away from the latest assault.

to force her to give details of

Police said the intruder may have waited for Ms Jackson to return from a trip abroad on Friday night and entered her home as she was unloading her car.



tied up in her kitchen

that Ms Jackson had called the police in February after being standing outside her house. Police searched the area with tracker dogs but could find no sign of the stalker.

Superintendent Alan Partridge, leading the murder investigation, also said there had been other earlier incidents when Ms Jackson had complained about being followed.

was disclosed yesterday followed by a vehicle near her home. She later saw a man

She was very security-conscious and her home was protected by an alarm system. Supt Partridge said: "It is my firm suspicion that regrettably Ms Jackson had been targeted by someone who knew what sort of trade she was in. Someone suspected she might have items at her home which would be of value." He added: "It is likely they had been hanging around the area waiting for her and, indeed, may have been in the area in earlier days or weeks."

The assailant tied her hands watch from her body, with other jewellery. The cottage was searched, but the police have been unable to open the house safe to discover whether anything has been stolen from it. It is unclear how she died.

There were no strangulation marks on her throat and a murder weapon, such as a pillow, which may have been used to suffocate her, has yet to be identified. Ms Jackson, who lived alone, was described as a decent woman and regular churchgoer.

Police are examining possible links with the murder of Janet Brown, 50, a nurse who was found battered to death at her farmhouse in Radnage, Buckinghamshire, two years ago. Supt Partridge said there were certain similarities between the cases but there were no strong links to indicate the killer was the same person.

Mrs Brown was found gaked and handcuffed at her home. She had been beaten to death, but had not been sexually assaulted.

Burglary was discounted as and feet and took a Rolex the motive after it was discovered that nothing had been taken. Her murder remains unsolved.

Stanley Jackson, the father of Ms Jackson, said yesterday that he believed her killer was also responsible for the death of Mrs Brown. He said: "You can never be sure, but I believe the killer is the same man.

"Carolanne was a lovely woman, a lovely lady. She knew a lot of people through her jewellery business and they all thought so much of her," he

#### DAILY POEM

**Years of Vision** 

By Dionisio D Martinez

In a matter of minutes I destroyed the journal I had kept for 15 years, maybe longer.

A man in love soon learns to be unfaithful to himself.

I changed my name and taught myself not to answer when you called me by the old familiar one.

It became obvious that accidents are worth repeating.

Each day I woke a little closer to the sea with little more than my cobalt blue history to keep me afloat.

I bought a shirt to match the earth of each new country I

stumbled into - terra cotta, terra firma, terra incognita. In countries with nothing but overabundance, language has the luxury of moving backward - red hibiscus, dark leaves.

Years of Vision comes from the sequence "Flood" in Dionisio Martinez's third collection, Bad Alchemy (WW Norton, £8,95). Born in Cuba in 1956, Martinez went into exile with his family in 1965 and, after periods in Spain and California, now lives

### Care workers' win threatens homes

Women care workers have won an industrial tribunal victory but it could lead to the loss of hundreds of jobs and the closure of 18 residential homes, it was feared yesterday.

More than 600 care workers were dismissed and re-hired on lower pay after the Comwall County Council-run homes were transferred last April to the Comwall Care Ltd charity.

Cornwall Care dismissed the workers from their original contracts last September, re-hiring them on new ones. But 249 went to an industrial tribunal in Truro and successfully

claimed unfair dismissal. It is understood that all the care workers employed at the homes will be in line for back pay and the 249 applicants are also in line for compensation.

Chief executive of Cornwall Care, James Robinson, said it faced a "dire situation". The tribunal decision could cause the company to fail "in a com-

paratively short space of time". If it could not carry on, the homes must close and the 600 residents would have to be found alternative accommodation, he said. "We are hoping some common sense will prevail from the union," said Mr Robinson, adding that the company board would be meeting

as a matter of urgency. The company was now saying the union should find ways of saving jobs, not destroying them, he said. Unison regional officer Stuart Roden said it was "delighted" by the decision, adding that the workers had been "put through hell".

حكدًا من الأصل

chief.

aintings

dealer lker

kers win



AR SHOWN CITIOEN SAID 1.5 YTK 3 DOOR CID,75-ON THE ROAD, PRICE INCLUDES CRAS ON THE ROAD COSTS FOR DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND 15 MONTHS FORD Y HIGH SAID 1.5 TO 75 YEAR OLDS, A SEPARATE SCHEME APPLIES TO DRIVERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, TYPICAL ELECT 3 EXAMPLE FOR SAXO LEI VTR 3 DOOR; ELECT 3 PRICE CRASS PRIC

# election'9'

## Major talks tough on foreign fishing

Chief Political Correspondent

John Major has threatened to disrupt the Inter-Governmental Conference until a deal was reached to stop European Union fishing fleets using "quoto hopping" to net part of the British catch.

The Prime Minister said he would not allow the IGC in Amsterdam in June to make progress until British demands for "quota hopping" to be banned had been met.

"The IGC will not come to a successful conclusion until they satisfy our objectives on quota

hopping." he said. Senior Conservative sources said he would be seeking to have British-registered foreign ships removed from the register. They represent 26 per cent by tonnage of the United Kingdom's fishing fleet, and have angered British fisherman whose jobs have been put at risk.

Mr Major attempted to raise Europe as one of the key issues for the first time in the campaign as his tour of marginal Tory sears rolled through the West Country, from Land's End to Plymouth, where the Liberal Democrats are challenging the Tories for many seats.

He warned wavering Tory voters that the Liberal Democrats would push a Lib-Lab government to join the single European currency in the first wave, and he cast doubt on Tony Blair's promise of a referendum on a European single currency. He said Labour had matched

the Tory pledge of a referendum on a single currency but as we've seen over privatisation, devolution, and the unions. their policies changed daily".

Not to be outdone, Mr Blair told BBC Radio 4's The World at One programme that he was prepared to be isolated in Eu-

order to get the right changes to fishing policy that are in Britain's interest. What we don't want is a repeat of the Conservative disasters over BSE and the beef war where they thumped the table and had all sorts of tough rhetoric ... but

got absolutely nothing done." The Tories have been reluctant to go on the offensive on the European single currency, fearing it would reopen old wounds. But Mr Major has given carte blanche to Tory candidates to campaign on their own commitments to vote against any proposal to enter a single

That compromise, lashed together at Tory headquarters, last night enabled Mr Major to go on to the attack against Labour. Those close to Mr Major on the campaign trail said he would not use the campaign to change the agreed Cabinet policy by ruling out joining a single currency.

His threat to mount a robust stand at the IGC marks a hardening of policy, which caught out the Conservatives' own research department.

He told party supporters at a rally in Plymouth that he felt in his bones that he was going to win the general election. "We are halfway through the general election campaign. In the last three weeks, I have quartered this country. I have met the real people of Britain. I can tell you I feel it in the air, and in my bones we are going to win," the Prime Minister said.

The mood was changing out there, he said, repeating his crit-icism of Mr Blair for getting "tetchy" when he was faced with difficult questions, and throwing a cordon sanitaire around himself. "Mr Blair must learn that politics is about the difficult questions. If you aspire to rope if British interests were at stake. "As we said two months run away from it," he said."



Fishy business: PM John Major and local Tory candidate William Rogers are shown a Turbot fish by sorter John Eddy (left) at Newly harbour Photograph: Russell Boyce/Reuters

### Britain likely to be net loser in EU fishery deal

Katherine Butler Luxembourg

The Government looks set to be outmanoeuvred today when EU ministers impose huge fleet cuts on Britain without providing any commitment to outlawing quota-hopping in negotiations on a new EU treaty. After months of deadlock a majority of the 15 fisheries ministers is expected to is the totally protectionist view back fleet cuts of up to 20 per of a member-state that claims cent under controversial longterm plans to save endangered

lf, as expected, the Fisheries Commissioner, Emma Bonino, agrees to scale down her original demands for 40-percent cuts in response to pressure from other member-states, Britain will be unable to veto a binding deal. Fisheries minister Tony Baldry repeated the Government's insistence that "UK fish are for UK fishermen" and that Britain would implement no new fleet reductions until the legal anomaly which permits non-British fishermen to fish UK were quota-hoppers.

But his demands received short shrift as other ministers in-

gal right to purchase UKopen market. "We (the Spanish) respect free trade and the single market. What surprises me to champion free trade".

Ms Bonino voiced disappointment with member-states' demands for a scaling down of the fleet-reduction targets but remained hopeful an an accord

would be brokered today. from British quotas is addressed. He said a quarter of all be achieved by a combination boats over 26m registered in the tain number of days a year.

out details of a fleet-cuts deal by the time talks end later today. Spanish minister Loyola de Palacio spoke scathingly of British calls for a ban on Spanish skippers exercising their leregistered trawlers sold on the

Ministers held a first round of talks last night which saw some support for French- and German-led proposals to scale down the Commission's proposals to 20-per-cent cuts for the most depleted stocks such as cod in the west of Scotland and the Irish Sea; and 15 per cent for "overfished" species in-cluding haddock and whiting in restrictions on fishing such as forcing boats to tie up for a cer-

### PM gets short shrift over promises on quota-hopping

pulled into the harbour. Sir James Goldsmith, leader for the Referendum Party and election. He should have done of the Referendum Party, there was plenty of evidence on would have a walk-over if the the quayside yesterday that the Cornish fishing village formed fishermen are anti-European. its own constituency.

At the turn of the century, Newlyn became famous for its own school of English impresfisherfolk, but the fishermen

Few of the fishermen in the port

of Newlyn, where decominis-

sioned boats were being burnt

last year, had much time for

John Major's tougher line on

"quota-hopping" when the Prime Minister's campaign tour

sionist painting, mainly of the there now say that they are threatened with extinction like the fish stocks off Land's End. Sir James chose Newlyn to launch his national campaign keep three weeks before the British catch.

Fisherman Mick Faulkner is standing for the Referendum Party and a number of his supporters were on the fish dock after the boats tied up.

Party, said: "Major is going to make promises that he cannot

it five years ago." That point was dismissed as

"nonsense" by the Prime Minister said when it was put to him by The Independent at a morning press conference in the Queen's Hotel overlooking the

Mick Mahon, skipper of the *I-Anne*, and press officer for the local branch of the Referendum

Mick Mahon, skipper of the said he would have needed the vision of Mystic Meg to predict that the quota system would be used by foreign fishermen to take a share of the

Mr Major's answers are unlikely to convince Dave Hicks, 39, who scrapped his boat last year, and is now reduced to crewing another vessel.

"At the moment, we stand to be completely ruined. At this rate, British fishermen will be extinct in 20 years. We accept we have to be a regulated industry, but it ought to be regulated by a British Parliament, not by bureaucrats in Brussels," said Mr Hicks, who will be voting for the Referendum

There was a banner saying "Rule Britannia not Brussels" across the dock just in case Mr Major had failed to get the mese when he went on board one of the few boats with a Con-

servative owner. He was accompanied by David Harris, the well-liked Tory MP who stood down after his wife became terminally ill and has been unable to find another seat. His departure will lose the Tories a few more

One of the tribe of local artists, Tamsin Powell, 45, said she had voted for Mr Harris last time, but was now undecided. She was floating towards the Liberal Democrats but - like the fishermen - felt they were too pro-European. So I don't know what I'll do," she said.

Mr Harris said: "Jimmy Goldsmith is not going to do well here. He launched his big thing here, but that was the beginning of his campaign. There is much more to this election than just one form of ref-

erendum. However, Mr Major may have pulled back one vote when he met local roadsweeper, Simon Ralph, 22, who voted Conservative last time. "I was encouraged that he took time out to speak to the average man like me," Mr Ralph said.

### EU must cut fleets to preserve stocks

Europe must cut back on overfishing to protect threatened stocks, and so there must be deep cuts in the size of the union's fishing fleets.

The media and politicians were in danger of losing sight of this awkward imperative yes-terday, as John Major and Tony Blair competed to show just how tough they were willing to be with the rest of the EU in order to get "quota-hoppers" dealt with.

Britain's own fishery scientists have warned that there is a very real threat of some North Sea and Channel stocks, such as cod,

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment and a former fisheries minister, says he believes they are right and has demanded action, including more decommissioning.

Yet Britain has been among the worst laggards in the European Union in coming up with state funds to tempt fishermen to scrap their boats. Even so, about 600 out of 3,000 boats have been decommissioned here since the UK scheme started in 1992.

The fishing industry knows stock collapses are not just a threat. It happened to North Sea herring and mackerel in the state of stocks, says the cod "is

Quota-hoppers are not wholly to blame for disaster, argues Nicholas Schoon

1970s, and by 1978 an annual herring catch which had stood at more than 700,000 tons eight years earlier had fallen to nothing. Herring stocks recovered in the North Sea; mackerel has not.

Cod do not breed until the age of four, but the majority are caught before then. The International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, the expert international body which officially advises Europe on the

considered to be outside safe biological limits." Stocks of North

Sea haddock are also judged to be well below the "minimum biological acceptable level", as are several other commercially important types of fish.

Ideally, what is needed is a very deep, prolonged cut in fishing - even deeper than the 20 to 30 per cent the European Commission is calling for. This would allow the number of breeding adults to recover to a level where more fish could be

But the problem with this is demanding. that the fishermen would want compensation for laying off and the totals for a large proportion of them giving up for several years are enough to make taxpayers and Treasuries balk. Yet it is the fishermen who will be hurt most if the scientists prove right and the North Sea

suffers ecological collapse.

If the quota-hoppers from
Spain and The Netherlands. who now catch about a fifth of Britain's quotas under the Common Fisheries Policy, were to simply vanish, then that would

caught each year than are amount to the kind of cuts the taken now. European Commission is

But, of course, they won't and can't just disappear. They purchased licences and vessels in good faith from British fishermen who were willing to sell to them, as part of a free-trading European Union.

However high the Conservative and Labour Parties raise the stakes with talk of refusing to let the EU's crucial Intergovernmental Conference negotiations conclude in June, the next government will find dealing with the quota-hoppers extremely difficult.

#### THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

#### THE CAMPAIGN Yesterday was the first day of a new, more

positive approach to campaigning by the two former opposition parties, but whether anyone would have noticed if they had not At Labour's Millbank media centre, the day

began with a briefing from Gordon Brown and David Blunkett on "Failing the test: the Torles" record on education". Promoting a lecture by Tony Blair in Birmingham on schools, the shadow Chancellor and the education spokesman claimed that what mattered was not structures but standards. While the Tories had been obsessed with how schools were organised, Labour would concentrate on

finding ways to raise levels of attainment.
John Major began the day in Cornwalt.
Journalists who wanted to join him were forced to board the midnight train the previous night. After visiting a fishing boat at Newlyn Harbour, Mr. Major said "quota-hopping" by European vessels must

The Liberal Democrats, like Labour, concentrated on education and on their plans to put more money into schools. They also held a briefing on ethnic minorities, promising a marger of the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission along with repeal of the Asylum Act.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Calls for a cleaner approach to election politics were at the top of the agenda, coming both from the Liberat Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, and from Labour spin-doctors.

Mr Ashdown broke off from criticising John Major to tell journalists: "I have never known the electorate so angry, so apathetic, so fed up with all ticians. I just want to give a warning that we really do have to put our house in order." In Birmingham,

Tony Blair was putting the idea into action with a lecture on education. "If the election is about anything, it should be about education. To those who say where is Labour's passion for social justice?", I say education is social justice," he said. John Major saw little new in the

other parties' approaches, though, and accused Labour of waging a two-year campaign of "scurrilous" criticism.
"The Labour Party have been subjecting the Conservative[s] to the most scurrilous criticism day after day over the past two years, yet they shrink away whenever there is any criticism of them, as though it was unfair. Politics is a tough trade. As someone once ... said 'if you can't stand the heat, don't get in the kitchen'," he told BBC Radio Five.



The buildog, a creature used to appearing in Conservative advertising, has been adopted by the Latiour.
Party. The dog will feature in a party election broadcast unlight, appearing fistless at the start but periong up at the sound of Tony. Blair's cratory. Campaign-manager. Peter Mandelson said "The Latiour Party is the particular party. That's why we have used this strong symbol because we believe in symbol because we believe in

Britain and know it can be better.

Former champion boxer Terry Marsh stood down lasts Terry Marsh stood down last night as I therat Democratic candidate for Basifden atler being charged by police with offences relating to a student grant application. The former light: terweight champion will appear before magistrates next promit, accused of obtaining property and

### services by deception...

ONE TO REMEMBER Sinn Fein predicted they would win 4 of Northern Ireland's 18 seats and join new negotiations after the British and Irish elections. Spokesman Martin McGuinness said people's imagination had been "caught by the impact of the thume-Adams agreement. The reception we are getting on the doorsteps is absolutely powerful ... most think there's going to be a new British government and a new opportunity for peace".

HOGWASH

sked on BBC Radio 5 Live what motivated him, Mr Major said: Asked on the made a tive what more and her wayer said:
The truth is that it's very difficult to define what drove Hillary and
Tensing to climb Everest. "It was there, is the true answer. If you see something that wants doing ... Politics is a bit like bicycling. If you keep bicycling, you'll get there in the end." 

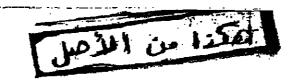
#### THE OTHER PARTIES

claiming victory in the argument that an independent Scotland could be self-supporting. They The Scottish National Party were claiming victory in the argument trumpeted new Treasury figures showing that the revenue from Scotlish oil and gas could be as much as £22bn over the next

The British National Party launched their manifesto, Britain Reborn. At its heart are two "very firm" pledges: "(i) Future immigration of non-Whites must be stopped; (ii) Non-Whites already here must be repairiated or otherwise resettled overseas and Britain made once again a white country."



Lisa Potts, the nursery teacher who shielded children from a Lisa Potts, the nursery teacher who shielded children from a main wielding a machete last summer, was back in the timelight when long and Cherie Blair paid a visit to St Luke's School, Wolverhampton. Although cameras were barred, Ms Potts was inevitably selzed on by the media. While refusing to discuss how she would vote, she described Mr Blair as "lovely" and "really nice and friendly", while "Cherie is lovely and down for early." The praise was mutual "What Lies did and down-to-earth." The praise was mutual. "What Liss did caught the imagination of everyone," Mr Blair said. "She has behaved with extraordinary courage".



### Water of life keeps Clarke's spirits up in the hills

Tony Heath

In an attempt to stave off what looks like a Tory defeat in a highly marginal constituency, Kenneth Clarke yesterday put on one side his taste for a pint — usually accompanied by a small cigar—and downed a tot of Welsh whisky.

The Chancellor was visiting a distillery near Brecon in the

a distillery near Brecon in the heart of one of those tight three-way contests in an area where "independent" councillors are almost as thick on the ground as bitter-drinkers at closing time.

Jonathan Evans, something of a wet and, like Mr Clarke, keen on Europe, is defending a majority of 130.

The local office of book-makers William Hill, thoughtfully located next to a wine merchant, and a stone's throw from the former launderette which has been pressed into service as a Tory office, quoted Mr Evans at 3-1 with Labour's Chris Mann favourite at 11-10 and the Liberal Democrats' Richard Livesey at 5-4.

Early in the day, the Chancellor lent a helping hand to Walter Sweeney who has the daunting task in the Vale of Glamorgan of defending a majority of 19, Britain's most marginal seat, Mr Clarke's visit to Welsh Distillers, was relaxed.

even marginally convivial. He padded round the distillery - he was wearing his trade mark suede Hush Puppies - and then settled down in a chapellike room to watch an audio-visual history of Welsh whisky. It was narrated by a lifelike plastic monk representing the recluse who, it is said, first produced olivisgi, the Celtic name for the fortifying spirit in

Then it was off to a splendid display of bottles and whisky nick-nacks - Biros and corkscrews bearing the company logo. A tape of "We'll Keep A "Welcome in the Hillsides" played softly. All that was misswas Celtic, rather than

Scotch, mist. The talk became serious. "I'm not allowed to take a bottle into the chamber on

speaking up in the European frustrated because the labels re-Union. "We are serious about jected most of the peus pro-

Union. "We are serious about jected most of the pens pro-resisting things like the Social ferred by Mr Clarke's budget day. My PRS pours a Chapter. The Labour Rarty's entourage. An omen, perhaps, and Radnor in both the 1974 elections under the Plaid Cymerplained? Mr Clarke, policy on Europe is anyone's for 1 May.

Chapter. The Labour Rarty's entourage. An omen, perhaps, and Radnor in both the 1974 elections under the Plaid Cymerplained? There is a political twist in the ru banner. He now intends to

He spoke up for Britain tograph bottles of chwisgi were story. Distillation of chwisgi

Gittins, who contested Brecon

and herself When I've left politics I will not spend the rest of my life looking over

Thatcher, asked about similarities between Blair

## Blair pledges 21-point plan for education

Education Editor

Tony Blair yesterday told his critics that he has a passion - and it is for education.

He used a speech at Birmingham University to answer attacks that new Labour has no passion for social justice by laying ont his party's commitment to education.

"If this election is about any-thing," Mr Blair said, "it should be about education. To those who say where is Labour's passion for social justice, I say education is social justice."

And he claimed: "Education

is liberty. Education is opportunity. Education is the key not just to how we as individuals succeed and prosper, but to the future of this country. Mr Blair abandoned his pre-

pared attacks on the Conservatives to deliver a speech which outlined 21 positive steps which a Labour government would take to improve education for the 21st century.
Urging voters to ignore the

"tit-for-tat" of electoral politics, he said: "Focus on the future hopes of this country. Focus on how we can run this country for the many, not the few. Focus on what leadership really means and then conclude that unless we drive up education standards passion nor the future that the

The 21 steps include a nursery place for all four-year-olds. class sizes of under 30 for fiveseven-year-olds, new targets for 11-year-olds in literacy and numeracy, modernised com-prehensives with fast-tracking for bright pupils and expanded higher education with a fairer

system of student finance.
Other steps included tough new targets for head teachers, reforms of teacher training and a new scheme for getting rid of bad teachers. There would be more spending on education as the cost of unemployment fell,

He promised to lead a gov ernment that would end the constant vilification of teachers and value the profession. Equally, it was intolerable for pupils to be saddled with teachers who could not teach.

Mr Blair said Labour would keep Conservative plans to add another 300 specialist schools to the existing 150 but would ensure the benefits were shared by all neighbouring schools.

Insisting that the scheme he envisaged was not an elitist proposal, he said specialist schools would offer their facilities, whether in music, science or languages, to all gifted children in an area. They would do so both during the school week after hours and at weekends.

Money is already in the De-partment for Education and employment budget for an expans-ion of the specialist schools scheme, though, as The Inde-pendent revealed yesterday, the Conservatives want to earmark some of the funding to help achieve their target of a gram-

mar school in every town. Mr Blair promised not to close down the remaining 160 grammar schools. "I have no intention of waging war on any schools except failing schools. So far as the existing 160 grammar schools are concerned, as long as parent want them, they

"Grant-maintained schools will prosper. Church schools will too - they have been a key part of our education system for 100 years and long may they remain so. We will tackle what isn't

working, not what is."

Despite his positive theme, the Labour leader took the opportunity to criticise Conservative plans to boost the number of grammar schools. The Tories had "fallen into the old trap". he claimed.

"It would mean secondary modern education for 80 per cent of pupils. It is the opposite of what is needed, turning the clock back when we need to turn

### Prime Minister goes on offensive over schooling

Colin Brown and Lucy Ward

Labour's education manifesto was attacked as a "shameless contract with hypocrisy" by the Prime Minister in an attempt to maintain the Tory momentum in the election.

Mr Major accused Tony Blair of taking a "patronising view" of poorer children who would from the educational reforms which the Labour leader had taken advantage of for his own son, Euan. The personalised at-tack on Mr Blair's choice of a grant-maintained school outside Islington, his Labour-controlled London home borough, was made in spite of Mr Major's claims that he was not indulging

in personal abuse. Speaking in Plymouth, Mr Major said there was a "giant gulf" between the cosy façade through" with hypocrisy, she

spiteful reality of its policies.

Mr Blair had produced worthy sentiments but had "opposed, opposed "Tory

education reforms. He was like

the man who had thrown a brick through a window and turned up offering to act as a glazier. Mr Blair had said he wanted the same choice for others as he wanted for his own children, the

had pledged to abolish grantmaintained status. Conservative strategists believe the attacks on Mr Blair's alleged hypocrisy are striking a chord with key floating voters in the Tory marginal seats.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said that she could not resist "a wry smile" at Labour's conversion to the cause of specialist schools. The party was "shot

years opposing all the things we have put in place to improve standards and then say that you want to raise standards." At least three-quarters of Labour's 21 points "towards a better educated Britain" were quite redundant because they were already happening, she added.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, welcomed the Tory and Labour leaders pledges to put education first, but told ITN's lunchtime news: "Unless they are prepared to put the money in, those are merely words and words come cheap."

Labour's pledge to provide a nursery place for every four-yearold was already well on the way to being fulfilled, Mr Ashdown said. "What we need is nurseries for three- to five-year-olds. That can't be done without making a commitment of resources on that and they refuse to do so."

PACKARD

If I was a fisherman, would be as. concerned about the way some of it is working, as some of the fishermen I met last summer down here, those I met this morning and ... those I'll meet before Amsterdam and

We need your help to ensure that we win the next

after it - John Major



eneral election. A donation will go directly towards securing a victory. Please complete the form

attached and return it with a donation in the envelope provided Letter from Conservative Party Chairman Brian Mawhinney to Tom Jones Labour leader of Swansea

I have no intention of waging war on any schools except failing schools -Tony Blair

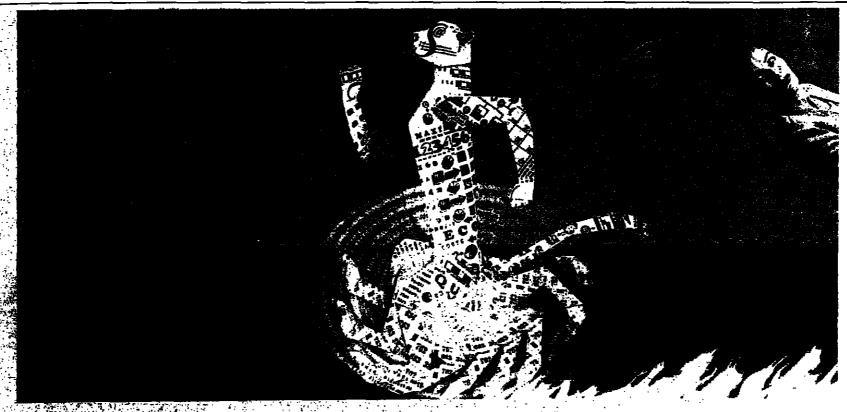
There are many similarities in the kind of world they would both like to see begin to emerge - Labour candidate Glenda Jackson on Blair and Clinton

There's a complete difference. I transformed Britain into the most successful economy in Europe. He doesn't have to do anything - Baroness

my shoulder talking

of the days when was in politics -

Compiled by Ben Summers



If there were a speed limit for printers, the new HP LaserJet 6P would be under arrest. It prints 8 pages per mimute. Its first page is out in under 20 seconds. And its infra-red (IR) port is 10 times faster than its predecessor, so print and

shoot wireless printing is even quicker. The HP LaserJet 6P is also technologies. Our new printer language, PCL6, to be processed and printed quickly. Resolution

Enhancement technology gives you the highest quality output. And paper handling is more versatile than ever, with a total input capacity of 350 sheets. And for a breathtaking performance we suggest a diet of HP Supplies, our range of

paper, transparencies, film and toners. So, what are you waiting for? Go like a cat out of hell to your HP stockist today. For more details, call HP on 0990 474747.

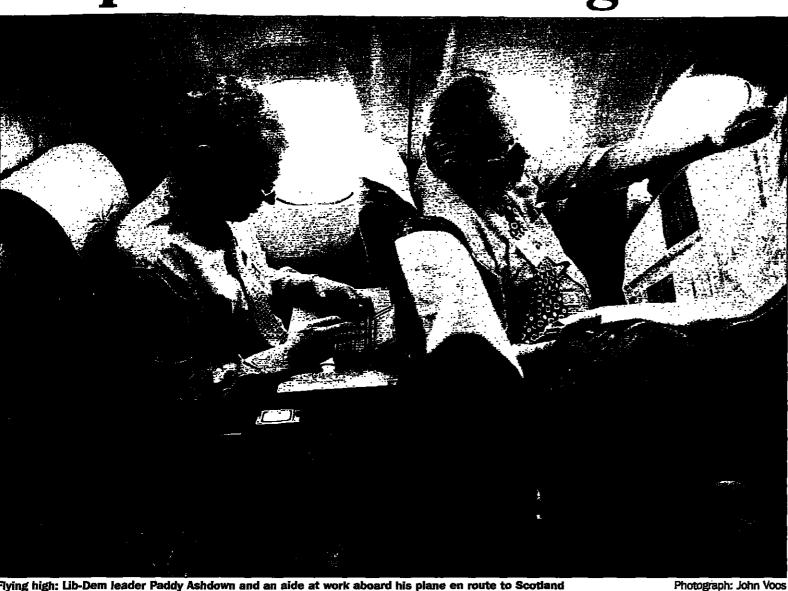


HP PRINTERS. PAPER THAT WORKS FOR YOU.

The new HP LaserJet 6P. At 8 pages per minute, it's fast.

fitted with HP's advanced enables complex graphics

## Lib Dems feeling 'chipper' as polls rise in marginals



Flying high: Lib-Dem leader Paddy Ashdown and an aide at work aboard his plane en route to Scotland

**Barrie Clement** 

After weeks in the doldrums the Liberal Democrats are professing to feel 'chipper' about their electoral prospects.

Their private surveys show increasing support in key marginal constituencies and independent national polls are also nudging up in their favour. But there is still some way to go before they reach the degree

of support they attained in the last election. There is no hint as vet that the deep unpopularity of the Government has begun to rub off on the Liberal

Democrats, perhaps Paddy Ashdown may now be offered the role of Mr Micawber. Mr Ashdown's aides believe

that voters are becoming in-creasingly nauseated by the adversarial antics of the two other party leaders, and say that the change of tactics by the Labour leadership towards a more positive campaigning style is an indication of how disenchanted the electorate has become.

The increased support reflected by national surveys is unspectacular. Whereas their ratings stood at around 12 per cent at the start of the campaign,

Tony Blair are characterised as Punch and Judy by the Liberal at the 14 per cent mark. At the last general election they picked up 18.3 per cent of

the vote, although the result was

comfortably higher than most

Ironically, the party is relaxed about the defection of Tory voters straight to Labour in some constituencies because it could allow them through in the middle. Torbay in the West Country and Hazelgrove, near

Manchester, are examples. Privately, the Liberal Democrats' aspirations are modest. Currently with 26 MPs, some senior officials believe they will be doing reasonably

well to maintain that number. Some of the seats are disappearing because of boundary changes and two are held by defectors from the Conservative Party. But more optimistic apparatchiks believe a target of 30 to 35 is "credible." There are 50 target seats.

Geographically the Liberal Democrats are concentrating their resources to an even greater extent than the other parties. They are adamant that unlike their rivals they are not tailoring policies to suit any socio-economic group – the 70,000 members of Middle

England in key marginals. The Lib-Dems are portraying

themselves as the one nation party bravely testing the social conscience of voters and chal-lenging them to countenance a larger contribution to the Inland Revenue. These are policies that go down well with voters or at least that is what people

tell polisters. Party officials are taking comfort from their own canvassing returns which show the Liberal Democrats making steady progress. It is admitted, however, that electors often have to be reminded that it is not simply a toe-to-toe battle between Mr Major and Mr Blair before they register a preference for

a grande dame of Fleet Street, all fags and stories, disinclined to repose confidence in a mere lad when she had seen Gorby fail and

the Shah fall.

There were the clever-clever ironists swapping aparcus with reporters from television, and



by Aanonymous

**6** The scene

would resemble

what happened

when you threw

a dead puppy

into a piranha

tank. 9

untie stood at the back of the universi-ty hall, and waited 40th birthday - and this was her third election campaign. Ten years ago she had been a much younger,

hair was grey now before her time although she was still pretty. And she liked never stopped believing that what she was involved in could improve things. Just that what could be promised had lessened over time. The shining city on the hill was now more of a pleasant village on a low knoll. But it was still better than abiding in the gloom, as the Welshman

Ten years ago - and again five years back at the side of the Welshman, she had tasted the wine of expectation and supped the bitter sediment of disappointment, each time getting back up and starting again. Now, as one of the inner circle of Campaign Mums, she was caught between the two sensations again. Surely,

The Candidate was certainly different from the Weishman; not so brittle, nor so damaged. At the moment it was not defeat and personal failure that was haunting him but the manner of victory. "It's the mandate," he kept on telling everyone urgently. "We need to turn as many votes against them as we can into votes for us. Otherwise they'll claim we only succeeded because we weren't them, and I wasn't the Grey Man."

So today, to add to the positive Ten Commitments and the positive Five Pledges, here were the positive 21 Educational Steps. Surely to God they would have to write this one up, er,

positively. Or would they? Auntie swept her eyes over the representatives of the press who were now filling four rows at the side of the hall, their incontinent gadgetry going off intermittently in a ragged chorus of bleeps, chimes and buzzes.

The press! There, in his usual yellow tie was the chubby bad-tempered cherub from the Express, a one-time Thotskyite who has now turned his intemperate pen to the services of God,

 above all – the boy hack-pack with their catch-all cynicism: cynical when it was right to be cynical cynical when there was nothing to be cynical about. With the education correspondents sweeping up the hig story, they would be casting about for any half-tale. When they got it, the scene on the battle buses would resemble what happened when you

threw a dead puppy into a piranha tank. All foam, blood and a tiny bit of meat each. The tubby little vice-chancellor was now on

stage, pointing a picture of heroic academics struggling against low pay and large seminars to educate the young. And now, in a charcoal double-breasted suit, the creases of his trousers knife sharp and the fall to his ankles like draperies in a Leonardo, the Candidate was on. He looked, she always thought, like a pixie, with slightly pointed ears, plastic features, close-set mischievous little eyes, and the face narrowing from top to chin. Perhaps pixies also converted their "Ls" or "Rs" to :Ws"; chiw-

It was a long speech - a good speech. The young voice was not quite rich enough to

suggest extremes of feeling. There were no swoops into deep shaded valleys, no sudden bearing up over green wooded plateaux, no gliding over foam-flecked oceans. True, he did try to liven it up with little ad-libbed passion breaks between the hard policy bits, suddenly departing from the text to express huge enthusiasm for this or that. The appearance of the phrase "you know" was a sure sign of

deep caring.
The Welshman, she recalled, had been at the top of his game at moments like this. He could hold a crowd for an hour, no

problem. He would use his whole body, flexing his knees, bouncing up from his midriff, dancing around, clutching his clenched fists to his abdomen to convey agony, or spreading his arms wide above his head to signify delight or victory. No, crowds had not been a problem for the Welshman. Nations had been

Auntie glanced down at the press seats. The Express cherub was ostentatiously folding a copy ing to get outside for a cigarette and the ironists were examining the Candidate's body language. Only the piranhas were scribbling away - so perhaps the speech would get big coverage after all. After 10 years she was not holding her breath.

### **Smooth Sinn Fein** makes its poll pitch

David McKittrick Ireland correspondent

Sinn Fein vesterday presented a confident and even suave image to the world as they formally launched their election campaign with a prediction that they could win up to four of Northem Ireland's 18 seats.

Party president Gerry Adams and other candidates presented an almost debonair image as, dressed in sober dark suits and respectable ties, they made their pitch for votes in a converted Belfast linen mill.

Mr Adams declared: "We are an Irish republican party. We are for an end to British rule in our country. We are for a permanent peace settlement based on accommodation and agreement. If we get our message across we can get up to four

IRA incidents such as last week's attempted murder of a woman RUC officer and the disruption of the Grand National at Aintree have made no discernible impact on Sinn Fein's support. Many of their voters have been supporting them steadily since the early 1980s and do not recoil from IRA violence.

Few observers believe they can take the four seats mentioned, for North Belfast looks safe for the Ulster Unionists and servers consider that Mr Adams

Sinn Fein Wants you to vote New Labour. For goodness sake, Save Great Britain

Vote Conservative!

WWXTVE.

#### Tory leaflet withdrawn A Tory candidate was yester-

day forced to withdraw a campaign leaflet, with the slogan "Sinn Fein wants you to vote New Labour" - which had been printed by Tory headquarters in London. Peter Scrope, a former Army officer and challenger for the Labour-held seat of Darlington, apologised for the leaflet which, he said, "oversimplified" the issues, and Conservative Central Office disowned it as a "local freelance operation".

West Tyrone will turn on an unpredictable three-way split between three candidates in a new

favourites to take West Belfast and Mid-Ulster.

Mr McGuinness yesterday spelt out the republican assumption that, despite whatever IRA violence may lie ahead, a new peace process will be rebuilt following the British and Irish general elections. He said: "People's imagination has been caught by the impact of the Hume-Adams agreement. The reception we are getting on the doorsteps in absolutely

powerful "People know in their heart and soul that whenever these elections are out of the road, both governments are going to have to return to the template that has been put into position by John Hume and Gerry Adams. Most think there's going to be a new British government and a new opportunity for peace."

Sinn Fein candidates said voters were critical of Mr Hume's Social Democratic and Labour party because it had refused to contemplate an electoral pact between the two parties. The SDLP has said it would not consider a pact while IRA violence continued. Sinn Fein's candidate in West Tyrone, Pat Doherty, said nationalists there were demanding a pact, "The anger on the anger on the door-step is unbelievable."

#### political shorts `

#### Marsh quits as Lib-Dem candidate after charge

The former boxer Terry Marsh is to stand down as prospective Liberal Democrat partiamentary candidate for Basildon in Essex after being charged by police. Scotland Yard has confirmed that Mr Marsh, 37, will appear before Thames magistrates on 20 May, accused of obtaining property and a service by deception.

The charges relate to tuition fees and a grant application made by him while a student between the dates of May 1995 and December 1996. Mr Marsh said last night: "I will be vigorously defending the action."

#### Pollsters' key poll challenge

Polling companies are being challenged to put their money where their mouths are with donations to charity tied to how close they are to the election result. John Timpson, head of the Timpson key-cutting and shoe repair chain, is writing to bosses of the leading pollsters asking them to match his offer of £100 per percentage point difference between their final polls and the result.

The company has been running a "key poll" among customers at its 325 shops across Britain, asking them to choose coloured key caps matching the party they intend to vote for. Yesterday, for the third week running, the poll gave Labour a 5-point lead, against the average 18-point lead in conventional opinion polls. Mr Timpson is donating 1p per "key vote" cast to Centrepoint, the youth

#### Monster ravers on right path

The Official Monster Raving Loony Party has the best policies on public access in the countryside, officials from local councils across Britain insisted yesterday. The party's suggestion of using "non-violent" prisoners to repair thousands of blocked public footpaths "was more credible, realistic and sincere than the often patronising platitudes of the 'sensible' politicians", said the Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers. Nicholas Schoon

### Ashdown scripts his own voters

Anthony Bevins and Lucy Ward

Paddy Ashdown's office vesterday admitted that he had been inventing angry voters to illustrate speeches and interviews about the school

In a BBC radio Today programme interview on 4 April, the Liberal Democrat leader argued the case for his party's disninctive £2bn-a-year spending pledge for education, saying: "You go down to Abingdon, where I was last week - the heart of middle England - cam-

paigning...
"A woman came up to me there and said, What are you going to do about saving the teacher, the fourth consecutive teacher sacked from my school in four years? What are you going to do about the fact that my child is having to take its education in a class of 40 or more?" "You tell her it doesn't make

Unfortunately, Mr Ashdown had already made a similar, broadcast claim about a man

an identical complaint in the West Country.
Oxfordshire County Council

firmly denied the existence of primary classes over 40 in Abingdon. And though records of teacher employment were kept by individual schools, the authority was not aware of any school which had lost a fourth acher in consecutive years. Nevertheless, the problem

appeared to be spreading, and Mr Ashdown came up with a new example for London Week-end Television's Jonathan Dimbleby programme on Sunday.

Again illustrating the need for his party's policies, he said: "I was in the Wirral during the Warral by election and a woman came up to me and said, 'Look, the opinion polls tell me you'll come third. But my kids are now having a teacher sacked from the school for the fourth year running, and I'm very worried about the crisis in our hospitals and I'm going to vote for you because you're the only party that will do

something about that'." A spokesman for Mr Ash-

who had approached him with down's office told The Independent last night that he appeared "to have paraphrased his conversations with different voters, with difference experiences, from difference places, into one answer.

Democra

Day

He said the basic point was that there were teachers being sacked four years' running, and there were children in classes of more than 40 pupils - but not necessarily, in Abingdon, or Wirral. "You know what it's like, in the heat of the campaign," the spokesman said.

Last night, Mr Ashdown returned to the fray, telling a rally in Aberdeen that Labour and the Torics were making promises with a hole in the middle. based on "Polo economics", without the finance to fund

real change. He added: "Most people are prepared to pay a little more, provided they know it will be well spent, on things they want to see more money spent on smaller classes, shorter waiting lists, specific improvements in the services their families rely

**HOW I WILL VOTE: BERNARD MANNING** 

#### Sleaze is no laughing matter but nor is it overly worrying they want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning famthey want to do. Also family life wash houses. The Manning family life wash house wash How will you vote?



Conservative.

Because, unlike a lot of people. I have a very long memory. Being a comedian, I've got to remember a couple of hours n an act. I remember when the Labour Party was in power. There were strikes every other day, with people like Dennis Skinner and Arthur Scargill leading the party. I don't believe that the 'New' Labour party is at all different from that. A leopard never changes it spots.

I've been through a lot. We're part of the greatest country in the world. Everybody wants to live here - nobody

I'm not overly worried by the sleaze. It was bound to happen. That sort of thing goes on in all types of life. As long as a man can do his job, it doesn't matter what goes on behind closed

What issues are important to you? Education - people leaving

school with brains, knowing what

- where brothers and sisters, mums and dads look after each other. Good housing is also crucial, with a little bit of money to spare to have some fun at the end of the week. I don't want to see everybody going into debt. We were brought up under the idea that if you couldn't afford it, you did without. I don't approve of credit cards and hire-purchase. We couldn't afford vacuum cleaners in the old days - we used to sweep the floor with brush. We

couldn't afford washing ma-

chines, so our mothers went to

you do without Which politicians do you admire?

I used to like Aneurin Bevan - I thought he was a marvellous orator. Also Winston Churchill, Mrs Thatcher and Harold Wilson. I've entertained many of these great politicians in my past: London Hilton with Harold Wilson, Wembley Stadium with Mrs Thatcher. They all had good policies - like religions. There's no one who matches up to the likes of Win-

to follow. These days they all toe the party line. I rather like John Redwood: I think he talks a lot of sense and knows what he's about. I very much identify with the right wing of the Conservative party. You only have to think about socialism and Russia - Mr Gorbachev would tell you about that, There's no place in the world for

Have you always been interested in politics? I was born in 1930, came

اعكذا من الأصل

socialism; it's gone.

the British people are like. When they bombed Manchester and London - I remember how good we were. Little old Britain stuck out against great odds. We won because of the conservative mentality that we

If Labour do get in, would you consider leaving the country? No, I wouldn't. The Labour party aren't going to be in pow-er for long. They will be voted out very quickly.
interview by Sam Coates

Party aren't going to be in power for long. They will be voted out very quickly 9

The Labour

## Mud flies as parties swap tit for tat

Anthony Bevins and Fran Abrams

The election campaign hit new peaks of personal abuse with John Major and Tony Blair trading blows over the negative attacks each party has been

making against the other. The Labour leader told BBC Radio 4's World at One progrumme: "There are two election campaigns going on here, in my view. There's the sort of

Conservatives knock us, we do some knocking back, and all the rest of it. There's a wholly negative campaign, I may say, being run by them.

What we have to do is address the other election campaign, and that is on the issues, the things that really matter to people – schools, hospitals, law and order, jobs, industry, pen-sions, crime."

When it was pointed out

tacking government policies, the Labour leader said: "Well, of course we've got to draw attention to their record."

Mr Blair said that he wanted to lift the campaign above the "ding-dong battle" that was turning off the voters. But yesterday's Labour press notices were headed: "Failing the test: The Tories' record on education"; "Tory bro-ken promises on defence stabil-

At Labour's daily press conference, Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, struggled to explain the difference between the party's positive aspiration and the negative notices.
We will fight the election on

will fight on education, on health, on law and order." But he then added, confusingly:

ive record."

Meanwhile, over at the Liberal Democrats' base, their leader Paddy Ashdown was making an impassioned plea for a fairer, more mature election after he had claimed that Mr Major's approach to Europe was "fatuous and futile."

Mr Major said in an interview with BBC Radio 5 Live: "This is a rough, tough campaign. No icon who is above criticism.

"Whenever the Labour Party are criticised they seem to think that in some curious (ashion it is unfair. The Labour Parhave been subjecting the Conservative government and individual Conservative members to the most scurrilous criticism day after day over the past two years, yet they shrink away whenever there is any criticism

someone once memorably said 'If you can't stand the heat,

don't get in the kitchen'." But the row was stepped up last night by Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign manager, who told Sky News: "We've not had a speech, we've not had a press conference, we've not had an interview, or an utterance by the leadership of the Conserv-

tit-for-tat one, you know, the that Labour had yesterday is- ity"; "Fins can only get better. A "We will not refrain from draw-politician in it, if he is in the of them as though it was unfair, some mud at the Labour Party. Conservatives knock us, we do sued three briefing notes, all at-briefing note on Conservative ing attention to the Conserva-front rank of politics, can be an "Politics is a tough trade. As that has not hurled some piece. that has not hurled some piece of personal abuse at Tony Blair particular.

This evening, the Prime Minister is making a speech, 17 pages of a speech, and it does noi contain a positive idea or an ounce of vision about Britain's future. It is just negative, negative, negative mud-slinging and abuse and back-biting directed at the Labour Party. Now this is ative Party that has not thrown the politics of the gutter."

### The invisible politician revealing a novel route to success

Randeep Ramesh

There are few politicians who shun publicity. There are even fewer who do so and are successful. Andrew Smith, Labour's transport spokesman, who is almost allergic to generating headlines, falls heavily into the latter category.

A fairly Blairey politician, Mr Smith was brought in last summer to lower the profile of Labour's transport post - which had suffered an indecent amount of exposure under Clare Short, the populist Labour MP for Ladywood. Mr Smith had produced spec-

tacular results. In a poll of 1,000 people earlier this year, 6 per cent recognised the road protester Swampy, 3 per cent recognised the Secretary of State for Transport, George Young - and not one could identify Andrew

However, the cloak of anonymity was cast from the 46-year-old last week after his from a lad who's pushing his publicly-owned concerns would Labour's, spending plans.

that he had made a rare passionate plea at last October's lad likely to be grounded under Labour Party conference a Blair administration, hangs in against privatisation.

"They (the Conservatives) Traffic Service ... Labour will do everything we can to block this Blair!" they all chant.

Mr Smith's brush with fame has done him little harm. He remains part of Peter Mandelson's "key campaign" group - a squad of New Labourites which targets swingable seats and is virtually assured a place at Tony Blair's Cabinet table.

The burst of publicity is also unlikely to affect his prospects in his constituency. The fate of the country's air traffic control system is not on voters' minds in Oxford East.

On the doorstep, the Labour candidate is taxed on Europe, on education, on health. The Big Issues. And in each instance he trots out the standard spiel: "The Tories are a divided party lacking leadership ... we will cut class sizes to 30 or under for young children ... it is the burgeoning bureaucracy that is so steful in the National Health

leader's admission that some mate into a hedge: "Oi, is it true what my mum says that Labour have to be privatised to meet the will make me do my homework Conservatives', and hence and lock me up at home at might?" he shouts. The question The problem for Mr Smith is about Labour's much-vaunted the air for a second or two before the tyke's mates realise how want to flog off the National Air useful such an act might be. Tony Blair, Tony Blair, Tony



Stepping out: Labour's Andrew Smith, the party's unrecognised transport spokesman, campaigning in his Oxford East constituency

Mr Smith is well know, it is Oxford East. A former councillor, he has been the MP since 1986 when he unseated a future minister, Steve Norris, by upping Labour's vote by 20 per cent. The voters are far from the dreaming spires of Oxford (Mr

is populated by car workers from Rovers' Cowley complex, students and ethnic minorities. Oxford East, geographically,

should be typically Tory territory. Hemmed-in by the constituencies of Douglas Hurd, Michael Heseltine and Smith attended St John's John Patten, it was a seat tra-

such as Lord Hailsham.

Today there is something faintly surreal about the Conservative candidate. He is plunging into a seat of humanity on Headington High Street - pressing flesh, touching shoulders and being shouted at by an old lady. "Look at him, I bet the

road was his mother," she shouts. 'See you in five years, love -

when you next need my vote." Jon Danogly, the fresh-faced Tory candidate, is pretending he cannot hear. For Mr Danogly (pronounced by himself as "Janog-lee, and by the voters as "D'jungly", "Ginola" or "Ge-

If there is one place where College), and the constituency ditionally held by Tory grandees last old lady he helped across the ology") no obstacle is so large the seat is described as "prethat it cannot be overcome. The 31-year-old City solicitor

**MEDIA WATCH** 

Long campaign

forces viewers

is nonplussed that the seat is solidly Labour (with an 8,000 majority) and there is not even a Tory city councillor. "Voters in Oxford are a clever bunch too clever by half," he grins.

dominantly well-to-do working class, and might not take too

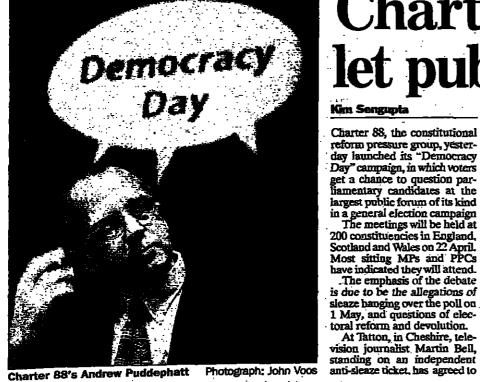
Photograph: David Rose

educated young upstart". "The voting roll has changed by 50 per cent since the last election," he challenges. "So I don't oo clever by half," he grins.

He is also unimpressed when are going to do."

kindly to a public school-

icripts oters



### Charter 88 campaigns to let public grill candidates

Charter 88, the constitutional reform pressure group, yester-day launched its "Democracy Day" campaign, in which voters get a chance to question par-liamentary candidates at the largest public forum of its kind in a general election campaign The meetings will be held at 200 constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales on 22 April. Most sitting MPs and PPCs have indicated they will attend.

The emphasis of the debate is due to be the allegations of sleaze hanging over the poll on 1 May, and questions of electoral reform and devolution. At Tatton, in Cheshire, television journalist Martin Bell,

sponse either from Neil Hamilton, the MP at the centre of the "cash for questions" scandal, or from his wife Christine.

nine years ago, has attracted 70,000 signatories in its attempts to get a freedom of inproportional representation. Andrew Puddephatt, the director, said yesterday: "Trust us' has become this election's slogan. But how can we trust politicians when they don't trust

Charter 88, which started

"We don't have a right to know, or legal protection for our rights, and our centralised system of government means we don't have a say in what happens

only through reforming our system of government to make it open and accountable can politicians earn our trust."

Canon Kenyon Wright, the executive chair of the Scottish Constitutional Convention. said: "This is about changing the system for good. It is about how we are governed, not just about who holds power, but about the very shape of our democracy.
"In Scotland the fact is trans-

parent and paramount. I welcome the fact that Charter 88 plans 'Democracy Day' meetings in at least 28 key con-stituencies in Scotland." Canon Wright said he would

press a Labour government, if it gets into power, to let the Scottish Constitutional Con-vention have a full say in to empower local people".

Charter 88 supporters from the world of showbusiness attended yesterday's launch, inchiding actor David Swift, from the television series Drop the Dead Donkey, actors Timothy West and Eric Richard. Sergeant Bob Cryer in the police series The Bill, as well as mu-

sicians Billy Bragg, and Dodgy. Swift said: "I was taught that this was the finest parliamentary system in the world. But that simply is not true. Members of parliament should be much more accountable".

"I haven't renewed my subscription to the Labour Party," Billy Bragg said. "To me, socialism means simple things, like providing adequate education and health care. We also need

in hanging on to his seat with

Thatcher's worries about the long election campaign turning people off is reflected in poor viewing figures for news programmes on television and slip-

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

ping newspaper sales. The Nine O'clock News. which was blamed at the weekend by Mr Blair for boring the electorate with tit-for-tat election coverage, has been hardest hit by election apathy.

Tony Blair and Baroness

The BBC's flagship news programme's viewing figures tumbled by nearly 2 million from an average of 6.1 million to about 4 million since it increased its length by 25 minutes to give more election coverage on 2 April.

The Corporation is powerless to improve its news ratings because it feels it has a duty to inform the public during the election. "Our public service obligation is part of the democranc process," said BBC News spokesman Richard Peel, "We are giving people information to help them make a choice."

Mr Peel believes that the phoney campaign before the election was called has put people off, but expects interest to recover closer to polling day.

News at Ten has lost an about 800,000 viewers from its 6 million average, but its programme has not been extended.

Channel 4 News and Newsnight seem to have an in-built constituency of political addicts and their viewing has fallen by much smaller amounts, Newsnight is down 100,000 to 1 million and Channel 4 News is

down 40,000 to 700,000. Newspapers are doing no

to switch off better. In the official Audit Bu-reau of Circulation figures for

March only one daily newspa-

per saw its sales rise significantly

compared with February - The

Sun - while the rest largely

stood still. The figures are flat because sales started to fall almost as soon as the election was called in the middle of the The latest estimated sales fig-

ures available are for the first two weeks of April. These show that since the election was called the quality press has seen its sales fall by an estimated 55,000 a day or 2.2 per cent. The tabloid mass-market and

mid-market papers have fored better, but have still lost an estimated 106,000 sales a day, or 0.9 per cent of the market. The figures are particularly

damaging because newspapers expect to do well out of a general election and see their sales go in the other direction. Some industry insiders hope that once people return to work after the Easter holidays sales will

The Labour Party will use a three-year-old buildog called Fritz to play the patriotic card in tonight's party election broadcast. The dog is seen at the beginning of broadcast tired and worn out after 18 years of Tory government.

After listening to Tony Blair talk about his plans for the country intercut with scenes of Mr Blair with President Bill Clinton and President Nelson Mandela the dog wakes up. Eventually it is straining at the leash and breaks free so it can run towards the rosy-coloured future that is a Labour government.

#### **AROUND THE REGIONS**

### Car-park fees could tip fate of Monmouth

Edwards are having their third head-to-head election battle in the last six years in Monmouth.

Mr Edwards won the seat for Labour in 1991, in a by-election brought about by the death of Tory MP Sir John Stradling Thomas, but Mr Evans won it back for the Conservatives in the 1992 general election. Other candidates are Liberal Democrat Mark Williams, Plaid Cymru's Alan Cotton and Niall Warry for the Referendum

Party. With a Conservative majority of 3,204, this is the 10th most marginal scat in Wales, and one that Labour could have realistic hopes of recapturing - it's charges was steam-rollered

Roger Evans, the Tory sitting their 41st target seat national-member, and Labour's Huw by But there are local issues that have suddenly made Mr Edwards' task more difficult. The controversial introduc-

tion by the Labour-dominated Monmouthshire County Council of car-park charges and residents' car-parking permits in the constituency's three main towns of Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth, is seen as a new local tax and has been fiercely resisted. Erstwhile committed Labour voters have told the local newspaper, the Abergavenny Chronicle, that they would not vote Labout again

because of these changes. "I was disgusted by the way

ABERGAVENNY CHRONICLE Tindle House, 13 Nevill Street, Abergaverny, Mon. NP7 5AA. Tel: 01873 852187 Fax: 01873 857677

through by the county council." said one Labour member who has resigned over the issue. "I will not be voting Labour again," he said.

Mr Evans and Mr Williams have campaigned quite strongly on this issue and have pressed Mr Edwards for a public statement on where he stands. The Labour candidate appears to be trying to distance himself from the issue by keeping quiet, while targeting another local issue to his advantage. This is a proposal by the Benefits Agency

of which is in Abergavenny and Roger Evans, as a Social Security minister, is being targeted as the person responsible for the proposals. The Monmouth constituen-

cy is a mainly rural area, known as the "Gateway to Wales", but it is anyone's guess where the influential farming vote will go - if anywhere. "Some farmers are so disillusioned that they won't vote at all," David Maddocks, Monmouthshire National Parmers' Union county chairman, said. "A large numto close 58 offices in Wales, one ber think there is a total lack of

by politicians across the board." Both Liberal Democrats and Labour have been wooing the farming vote at Abergavenny cattle market in recent weeks, but according to Neil Smith, Gwent development officer for the Farmers' Union of Wales, "ap-athy is safe". In his opinion, this could get Labour in, if traditional Tory voters among the farmers could not bring themselves to

vote for any other party. "After all, the Tories have done no favours for farming over the last four years and farmers have traditionally fared better under a Socialist government," he said. Across the border in Brecon and Radnorshire, the Welsh Office minister Jonathan Evans

a majority of just 130. It is the Liberal Democrats' top target seat and they are confident of regaining it with just a 0.15 per cent swing needed. Richard Livsey, who lost the seat to Mr Evans after a recount in 1992, is the Liberal Democrats' man again, while Powys county councillor Chris Mann is standing for Labour. Both parties claim they are on target to win. but if John Major's visit to Brecon last week in support of Mr Evans does not convince the voters, it seems likely that Mr

Jeff Morris

Livsey will regain the seat.

## Clinton to talk with thorn in China's side

Mary Dejevsky Washington

President Bill Clinton has agreed to meet the leader of Hong Kong's democracy movement. Martin Lec. later this week in a decision widely seen as signalling US support for the continuation of political freedom in the colony after the end of British rule. But arrangements for the meeting have been fudged to make the occasion less than a full presidential reception for Mr Lee, a diplomatic compromise that illustrates the sensitivity of the Hong Kong issue for the Clinton administration.

According to White House spokesman Mike McCurry, Mr Lee has been invited for "talks" with Vice-President Al Gore on Friday. Mr Clinton will attend a portion of that meeting. In Mr McCurry's words, "the President will be interested in his thoughts on the transition that will occur in Hong

Kong".

Although Mr Lee has enjoyed a high level of access while in Washington, inchiding meetings with the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and senior members of Congress, a White House meeting had hung in the balance. The invitation means he must amend his schedule to return to the US capital on Friday, rather than fly home to Hong Kong direct from Canada.

While the form of the White House meeting is a little less than Mr Lee and his vocal supporters in Washington might have hoped for, they will find a sweet irony in the fact that Mr Lee's official host at the White House will be Vice-President Gore. Mr Gore came in for strong criticism last month for omitting Hong Kong from his Asian itinerary and for 'kowtowing' to the



#### US 'sensitive' over welcome for HK democracy leader

Eyebrows were raised by one episode in particular: Mr Gore's participation in a champagne toast presided over by the Chinese prime minister. Li Peng, to seal a deal with the US Boeing Corporation. Mr Gore appeared surprised and embarrassed by the toast, prompting suggestions that it had been sprung on him by the more diplomatically adept Chinese.

Mr Gore's conduct and statements during his Asia trip were contrasted in Washington with those of the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, who visited the region shortly afterwards. Mr Gingrich made a point of emphasising US human rights concerns while in China, attended an Easter church service in Shanghai and

included Taiwan and Hong Kong in his route without apparently incurring the explicit wrath of the Chinese.

With less than three months remaining until the Chinese takeover, Hong Kong is becoming almost as delicate a subject for US foreign policy as Taiwan. It is fraught with the same difficulties of balancing trade considerations against the principles of political freedom and human rights, with the added complication that relations with Britain are also involved.

Until recently, official policy appeared to be to remain on the sidelines and "wait and see". Increasingly vocal criticism of the administration's silence, however, especially after Peking said it wanted to limit freedom of political activity in Hong Kong after the handower, may have contributed to Mr Clinton's decision to meet Mr Lee.

As if to drive home the point, the governor of Houg Kong, Chris Patten, contributed an article to yesterday's New York Times commenting, more in sadness than anger, on China's apparent desire to

limit free speech in Hong Kong

Results of a poll published in Hong Kong yesterday suggest that the popularity of Hong Kong's future leader, Tung Chee-hwa, has dipped over his Chee-hwa, has dipped over his proposed curbs on civil rights. A telephone survey commissioned by the South China Morning Post showed Tung had lost some public support after his office last week issued a plan to curb the right to demonstrate and ban foreign funding of Hong Kong politi-cal groups. More than 45 percent of 586 respondents said they had "less trust" in Tung safeguarding Hong Kong's interests than when he was appointed as leaderdesignate by a China-backed committee in



Sign of the times: Bill Farrell sitting behind the placerd which he hopes will ward off the robbers

### Desperate homeowner hopes burglars get his message

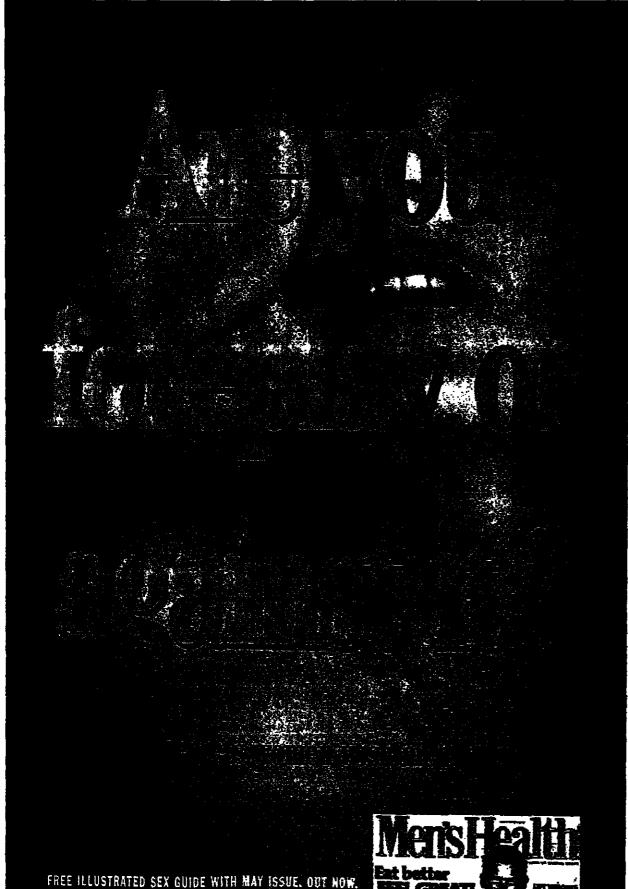
Santa Ana (AP) – Bill Farrell has a message for burglars who have struck his home three times in the past four months. "QUIT ROBBING ME," says a sign on his front lawn. "ALL GONE."

They've taken his computer, a couple of VCRs, tools, watches and other prop-erty, worth about \$20,000 (£12,000). A brawny Rottweller didn't scare away the burglars - the dog was stolen too. Somebody even made off with the

business card of a police officer who investigated one of the first burglaries. Hence the sign. "Maybe it'll do some good, if [burglars] can read," said Mr Farrell, 51. "It was the only thing I could

think of doing – just let them know there's really nothing left to steal." Police have no suspects, but Farrell said he thinks gang members in the neighbourhood may be responsible. He has started sleeping with a gun, takes his remaining VCR with him when he goes out and rents a storage unit to stash other items.

"I'm afraid to leave my house, because I never know what I'm going to come home to. You don't know what these guys are going to do." He has also installed bars on his windows and is putting in steel doors, new locks and motion-activated lights. "All you can do



### Attorney-General under fire over fund-raising inquiry

Mary Dejevsky

The United States Attorney-General, Janet Reno, came under political fire yesterday after ing to appoint an independent lawyer to investigate questionable fundraising by the Democratic Party during last year's presidential election camgn. In resisting Republican calls for such an appointment, Ms Reno now risks coming under investigation herself.

In a weekend television interview, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, warned that if Ms Reno decided not to appoint a "special counsel", he would press for her conduct to be scrutinised by the House of Representatives. It is alleged that the Federal Bureau

of Investigation, which comes under her aegis, failed to inform the White House that mainland Chinese interests intended to contribute illegally to the De-Mr Gingrich, argued force-

special counsel. Referring to the alleged "Chinese connection", he said that, if proved, it would be "the most extraordinary act of systematically violating American law ... a specific effort to raise enormous sums of money illegally involving foreigners". It is against the law for foreign nationals to contribute

to campaign funds in the US. Mr Gingrich's call for Ms Reno to be investigated was echoed by Dick Armey, leader of the Republican majority in the House of Representatives, who said that Ms Reno should resign

her position with that of a "scandal-ridden" administration. Ms Reno has argued that the neutral presidential territory.

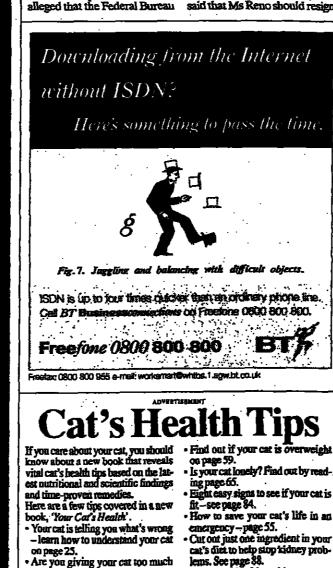
Justice Department is already investigating Democratic Party fundraising and that special consubject are already in progress. Her refusal even to start the procedures that would lead to the appointment of an independent lawyer, however, has fuelled suspicions that political considerations are involved and that an attempt is being made to shield the President

Two separate issues are involved: first, whether foreign interests made contributions to Democratic Party campaign funds; second, whether Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton and members of their entourage may have solicited campaign contri-

against rules barring party fundraising from supposedly dition edge. Tudjiman

welection

The resurgence yesterday of the party funding issue coincided with the return to centre stage gressional hearings on the same of another simmering Clinton scandal, the Whitewater land deal in Arkansus. A court in Little Rock was due to sentence a business associate of the Clintons, Jim McDougal, architect of the Whitewater deal on 18 counts of fraud and conspiracy. While the charges could attract a total sentence of 84 years in prison, Mr McDougal was expected to come off much more lightly in return for co-operating with investigators. The lighter the sentence, it was speculated yesterday, the greater his the danger to the Clintons.



A common kitchen item to stop your cat spoiling furniture - find out what on page 48.

Your cat may have arthritis and you don't know it. Find out on page 60. Eight essential treatments for this

described on page 65.
Cats can get depressed tool Learn

how to stop this on page 71. Get rid of fleas forever with this

simple remedy.

A simple task to perform before

you go out to ensure your house is safe for your cal. See page 75.

ful illness common to all cats. painful illness common to an one.
Stop your cat getting jealous of other cats using the simple method

# The Open University

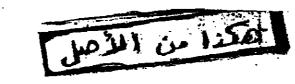
### Study for a BA or BSc degree.

To broaden your interests or develop your career, the Open University offers over 150 courses you can choose from to build your own BA or BSc degree programme. They cover arts, science. social science, computing, technology, modern languages, mathematics, business management, law, education and health and social welfare. If you are 18 or over and resident in the European Union, you're eligible. No previous qualifications are required. THROUGH OU SUPPORTED

OPEN LEARNING

Our unique method of teaching lets you study wherever you live and in your own time. The Open University comes to you with specially written texts, audio and visual cassettes. TV and radio programmes and, for some courses, computer software. You also receive support from your personal tutor and Regional Centre.

contour or bytone MC	on a first-come first-served basis - so fill in the
Send for you Diplomas a	r free prospectus on 'Courses, and BA/BSc Degrees' NOW.
Send to: The Open Unit of the send to: The Open Unit of t	nivereity, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes, MK1 1TY, copy of the Courses, Diploma and BA/BSc tus.
Address	UNTOW
Postcode	Tel
OU Hot	line (24 hours) 01908 379199



Why you should not kiss your car near their cars. Page 90.

tial health tips in 'Your Cat's Health' To order your copy of send your name, address and book title with

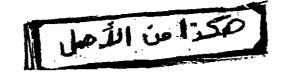
payment (Cheque/Switch with issue no./Visa or Mastercard with exp.

date) of £9.95 which includes postage and handling to Carnell Ltd, Deps CAH1, Airesford, m. Colchester,

Essex CO7 8AP, or telephone their

24 hour order line on \$1,206 825600 (quoting above Dept code). Allow up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book any time within three

And there are hondr



## Families plead for 'forgotten' hostages

The kidnapping of tvo Britons in Kæhmir in 1995 has left few clues

Desprate to find out the fate of twoBritish backpackers who were idnapped at gunpoint by militat Muslim gunnen in Kashir 21 months ago, the hostage families returned to India pappeal for their release

yestelay.

Thy will meet with politicians hd diplomats in both New Delhand Islamabad, and also ask hidsmen who live near the Him ayan trekking routes when the men were abducted to cope forward with any clues. Polic sources in Srinagar said that learded Westerners had beersighted in the area a fortnightago by locals, but it has been 16 months since the last official contact with captives Keit Mangan and Paul Wells.

A American and a German touist are also still missing. Norregian Hans Ostro, who was eheaded just a month after ne kidapping, was found on strail, with the kidnappers' group name, Al Faran, carved

on is bellyin August 1995. the families will circulate pamphlets in Urdu describing theplight of tostages and appeal fortheir release on humanitarian grounds For the first time, the families vill visit Jammu and



they think we want to hear, but

we just want the truth," Mrs

Mangan said. "But even if it's

second-hand information, we

want the authomies to check it

out. If, God forbid, they are

insurgents in touch with the kidnappers. "We must speak with Harkat ul Ansar this time," Julie Mangan, Keith's wife, said. Al Faran is suspected to be a breakaway faction of Harkat ul Ansar, a more established sep-aratist group which held two other British tourists hostage for over three weeks in 1994. They have denied the link and have

denounced the kidnapping. Mrs Mangan, 35, believes her husband, Keith, is alive and intends to pry out any snippet of information which might lead to the missing electrician, who grew up in Middlesborough. During a previous visit to the area last October, she said very seek the help of prominent little useful information was Kashmirs vho may have ingathered. "People tell us what



her third visit to India since her anniversary trip to the Taj Mahal was curtailed by the gunmen. Many officials fear the captives were executed in Decem-

dead, we want to know." This is ber 1995, but there is no hard evidence. Negotiations with the kidnappers broke down soon after and have not resumed. A rumoured burial site was dug up last year by German comman-

dos, American Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, and Scotland Yard experts, following the confession of a captured militant. No bodies were un-

The families, anxious to bring their predicament to the attention of new political leaders in Srinagar, New Delhi, and Islamabad, want to press their

campaign for new information

Hostages taken by Al-Fara include Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan (clockwise, second and fourth from top left). Catherine Mosely, Bob Wells and Julie Mangan (left to right) in New Delhi Photographs: AP/Reuters

international

before snow melts in the high mountain passes. They believe their best chance to find the hostages is in the more accessible lower valleys, if they are suc-

living.

Bob Wells, father of Paul Wells, is as grim-faced as Catherine Moseley, 27, the girlfriend of the missing photog-raphy student from Nottingham. "We have been kept in an agonising situation," he said. "Any information, old or new. will help." The group was de-layed by an air controllers' strike in India, and is trying to make up lost time.

Mrs Mangan's cousin, James Bowman, is a former law student who has organised a fundraising and support campaign in northern England and is also accompanying the group.

### ider fire nquiry

dy for or BS gree.

ist his message

to be the state of the state of

The second second section of

the second while the second

was being the

one who will be

The marking of

Act of the second

TO BELLE IN SECTION AND ADDRESS.

### Coalition edges out Tudjman in city elections

Mar Heinrich Reuti

Zagib — An opposition coalition dged President Franjo Tudhan's nationalist party in key lections for the city assemly of the Croatian capital. Zageb, according to a final win-

ord of finish reported by the



te electoral commission a few burs before, in which it said le uling HDZ had beaten the lid Social Democrats (SDP) andSocial Liberals (HSLS) by arzor-thin margin. Sate electoral commission

charman Ivan Mrkonjic an-touced the SDP had finished

percent while the HDZ tailied 35.67. This did not necessarily mean the opposition would take over the powerful Zagreb regional government, as the HDZ was as the biggest single vote-getter and its rivals fell short of a viable majority.

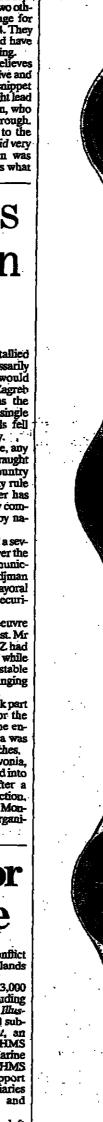
With the result so close, any change of power looked fraught disclosure reversed the where effective one-party rule with a democratic veneer has prevailed for decades, by communists until 1990 and by nationalists since then.

The SDP and HSLS led a seven-party bloc to victory over the HDZ in Zagreb's 1995 municipal elections. But Mr Tudjman vetoed four opposition mayoral nominees on "national securi-

The President's manoeuvre was condemned in the West. Mr Tudjman argued the HDZ had won a "relative majority" while the opposition was an unstable mishmash of parties ranging from far-left to far-right.

Former rebel Serbs took part in a Croatian election for the first time but voting in the en-clave of Eastern Slavonia was delayed by technical glitches. Serbs in Eastern Slavonia,

which is to be reintegrated into Croatia this summer after a period under UN protection, witl 24.18 per cent and HSLS got an extra day to vote on Mon-witl 12.58 per cent in Sunday's elegion for a combined 36.76 got an extra day to vote on Mon-day to compensate for organi-sational bungling.



### Navy joins major Asian exercise

Christopher Beliamy Defence Correspondent

A Britis aircraft carrier and a nuceausubmarine are at the centre of the largest ever naval exercis off the coast of Malaysi, in the pirate-infested, internationally disputed waters of sout east Asia.

The 3-day exercise, code-named lying Fish 97, involving 39 warsins and 160 combat aircraft, ithe most ambitious in the hispry of the Five Power. Defene Agreement (FPDA). the regon's only multi-national defend pact involving powers from diside the area.

The pact involves five Commuwealth states. Three outsig powers - Britain, Austran and New Zealand are required to consult on the defene of Singapore and Malafia.

Thregion is seen as one of flashpints. The exercise is taking pice only a few hundred miles on the Spratty Islands, varidsly claimed by China, Taiwh. Vietnam, the Philippine Malaysia and Brunci. Maysia is reducing its defere spending, in spite of its

booling "tiger" economy, but

takes the possibility of conflict with China over the islands very seriously.

Britain is contributing 3,000 sailors and 16 ships, including the aircraft carrier HMS Illus-trious, a nuclear-powered submarine, HMS Trenchant, an anti-aircraft destroyer, HMS Gloucester, two anti-submarine frigates, HMS Beaver and HMS Richmond, and two support ships, Royal Fleet Auxiliaries HMS Fort George and and

HMS Diligence.
The British naval force left home in January as part of Ocean wave 97 - a major naval deployment which is visiting 34 countries, with the aim of demonstrating that Britain continues to have security interests in the region after Hong Kong is handed back to China on 1 July. Navy sources said Flying Fish comprised two five-day stages which would the wrld's major potential put progressively greater pressure on the ships, including

submarine and air attacks. But it would take account of the different environment in the shallow waters off the east coast of Malaysia, about 100 miles north of Singapore, with large numbers of fast patrol boats and missile attack craft.





## Mobutu's foes turn Kinshasa into ghost town

Opposition raises stakes to force out president

Ed O'Loughlin

another tense day of "ville morte" (dead town) protest as the internal opposition tries to turn the screw on President streets of the capital. Mobutu Sese Seko's beleaguered regime.

Supporters of Etienne
Tshisekedr's radical Opposition movement say they will defy a military state of emergency by staging a street demonstration today, despite warnings from the military-led government that it will use its powers to the full against any protesters.

In the first day of protests yes-terday, businesses stayed closed and most people kept to their own neighbourhoods for fear of violence between government soldiers and opposition youths who clashed last week on the

The normally bustling street market on the Avenue de 24 Novembre was all but empty: only the bread-sellers turned up for work. Back streets in the city centre were deserted and traffic was light on the broad Boulevard du 30 Juin.

Troops patrolled the quiet streets in trucks ready to dis-perse any gatherings of pro-op-position youths. Kinshasa has effectively been under military rule since last Wednesday, when rebel soldiers from Laurent Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces captured the key southern town of Lubumbashi. The rebels now control half the country, including the mineral areas from which the Mobutu regime derives most of its considerable wealth.

The only visible confrontation yesterday came outside the house of Mr Tshisekedi, the opposition leader and sacked former prime minister, where soldiers fired into the air to drive off about 40 youths who were lighting tyres and chanting for the benefit of a group of foreign journalists. The students fled, but the journalists were briefly arrested and their car was stolen by the troops and later re-

A Belgian television crew

who were filming wherthe sol-diers arrived were fireion and their correspondent ragged from the car and arread. He was later released unarmed. Last week journalists overing pro-Tshisekedi street vrotests were attacked, beatn and

robbed by governmentroops. Later on Mr Mobut's new information minister, ha-kiey Mulumba, warned thatZaire's emergency laws wouldne enforced to the full against itizens and foreign journalist alike. The law forbade the filling of soldiers, he said, and journali were reporting untruthabout the government and thewar in the east. Without raking threats, I would like to rmind you of the professionalist and ethics of your trace," hesaid.

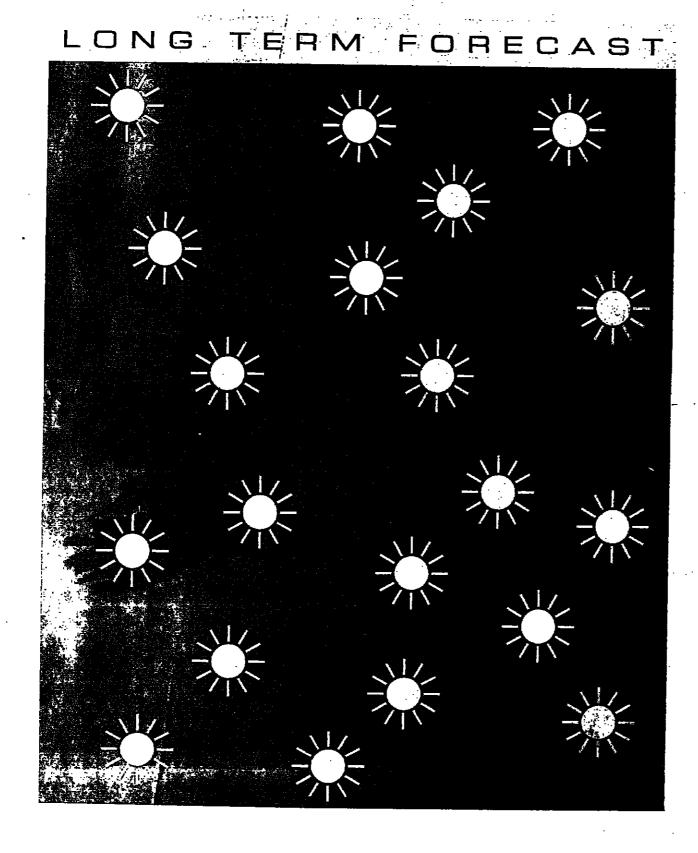
Street vender Bourolouire said the villemorte made life difficult "If I don't work I don't cat. But he supported it: "I am for Tshisrkedi

tu's corrupt and havy-handed rule, it is difficult to find an one in Zaire, outside the regime elite, who supports the a ling President's effort to cling to power. The opposition's success in bringing the capital to a halt is the latest blow to be Mobu-

"Mobutu no longe has anything to offer," sat Gilbert Mundela, a member of Mr Tschisekedi's moverent. He should be given a vay out

peacefully."

Leading articlepage 17



### LUCKILY, YOU CAN HAVE AIR CONDITIONING AND A SUNROOF FOR £13,940 ON A LAGUNA RT 1.8



All the signs point to 1997 being another long hot summer. Exactly how hot and how sunny is entirely up to you, thanks to an electric tilt and slide sunroof and air conditioning which both now come as standard equipment on

Of course, if you're thinking about driving anything else, a Ford Mondeo let's say, your summer could be considerably less comfortable

the range V6 as well as all RT and RXE estates.

most Lagunas from the RT 1.8 hatchback right through to the top of

and much stickier because you'll have to pay at least £15,370° if you want a sunroof (even a manual one) with air conditioning.

So, to make sure you've got everything you need to spend this

summer in style and comfort visit your Renault dealer or call us for details of the Laguna range.

Laguna IT'S ALL WORKED OUT BEAUTIFULLY.

0800 52 51 50

## اعكذا من الأصل

#### significant shorts

#### International force set for Albania 'D-day'

Nearly 1,200 French, Italian and Spanish soldiers will and in Albania by sea and air today to establish two

bridgeheads for an Italian-led security mission, Italy "D-day is tomorrow," Admiral Guido Venturoni, Ital's Defence Chief of Staff and overall commander of the eight-nation force, said yesterday, adding that rules of engagement for the force, dubbed Operation Alba (sunrise), include the right to self-defence. Reuters - Rose

#### Belgian police 'arrogant'

Police investigating the scandal of kidnapped, abused ad murdered children in Belgium were branded as arrogar and autocratic in leaked extracts from a special report. Magistrates were insensitive and slow to act, according to the report, which will be handed to party leaders today.

#### New camera puts film in shade

The days of film rolls and darkroom photography may be fast fading. Eastman Kodak Co introduced a digital camera for less than \$1,000 (£620) that produces unusually sharp photographs for the price, an advance that could give an important boost to the market for filmless cameras.

AP - New Y

#### Cartoonist suspended

A state-run Egyptian newspaper has suspended its contract with Israeli-American political cartoonist Rana Lurie in response to allegations that he killed Egyptian soldiers in Arab-Israeli wars. Mr Lurie denied that he eer killed Egyptians, although he acknowledged he was in the Israeli army during the 1948 and 1967 wars.

AP - Capt

#### Japanese killer to be hanged

A man found guilty of killing and mutilating four girls in series of bizarre crimes that deeply shocked Japan eigh! years ago was sentenced to be hanged. The court ruled hat Tsutomu Miyazaki was guilty and sane enough to be had responsible, though he claimed he committed the crims in a dream from which I never woke up. AP - Tayo

#### Opposition in Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein has a new government that, for the first time since the Second World War, faces an opposition. The fivmember government arose after the Progressive Citizens Party Liechtenstein (FBPL) voted last month to quitthe ruling coalition headed by the Fatherland Union (VI) party, which now rules alone. As Europe's longest-sev ruling coalition, it was set up in 1938. Reuters -!

### Orchestra ends hunger strke

Twenty musicians of the Thuringia Philharmonic erded a hunger strike after state and city officials pledged 5 million German marks (£1.8m) to keep the orchera playing. The musicians started the hunger strike on 3 April to force Thuringia state and Suhl city officia to reconsider a decision that they could not support the Philharmonic after 31 July.

AP - Suhl, Gernany

### Turkmenistan to host oil taks

Turkmenistan will host a regional summit on 13-14 fay to discuss ways to export the land-locked area's oil angas riches. Leaders of Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Azerbaija, Kazakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and representatives from Afghanistan as expected to attend the meeting of the Economic Co operation Organisation in Ashgabat. Reuters - Amaty

#### New Queen for Britain

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands has automatic right to Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands has automatic right to British nationality, newspapers reported. According to professor at the University of Amsterdam, a British la of 1704 granted descendants of the English royal house of Hanover rights to British nationality. Queen Beatrix desn't need to ask, "she just gets it through her birth". Professr H Jesserun d'Oliveira told De Volkskrant. AP - Amstelam no-ma

but talks th mirentation Andrew N

Cour president

tional force se

Profes

mia 'D-day

solice 'arrogant'

iera puts film insk

ist suspended

er killer to be hared

inn in Liechtenster

in ends hungerst

mastan to host of

ween for Britain

## The place that peace passed by

مكدا من الأصل

Grim-faced soldiers patrol Korea's bleak no-man's land, but talks this week could end 40 years of confrontation, writes **Andrew Marshall** 

Panmunjom — The thing that strikes you first about Korea's De-Militarised Zone is: considering it's demilitarised, there seem to be a hell of a lot of soldiers around.

This is a place where war stopped but where peace never came. The Korean war finished in 1953 without a peace treaty, leaving a line across the peninsula and a 4,000 metrewide strip of territory that is supposed to be demilitarised.

This week, a meeting takes place in New York that might bring this Cold War anomaly to an end. North Korea will respond on Wednesday to proposals for talks between North and South Korea, the United States and China that might end in a peace agreement. Until that happens, the DMZ and Panmunjom, the "truce village" where the Military Armistice Commission is supposed to meet, is all that there is.

The closer you get to the truce village, the more serious the soldiers look: not the amiable Republic of Korea national servicemen carrying automatic rifles with no magazines, nor the genial uniformed Americans who read the news on Armed Forces television, but hard-faced men with a look of intense concentration.

The slogans on the camp signs have that curious military mixture of braggadocio and fear: "1st Battalion 506 Infantry Stands Alone", that sort of thing. And at Camp Bonifas, where the United Nations troops are based: "UN Command Security Battalion - In

Front Of Them All". This has become the unlikeliest tourist attraction in Asia, There is what the Americans would call a dog-and-pony show

to demonstrate and explain everything before the guided tour gets under way. A US soldier whips through a slide lecture, maps, pictures, diagrams; tourists and VIPs trundle through the DMZ in limousines and coaches, from this guard

terwards, souvenirs can be bought from a shop that sells mugs, cigarettes, ginseng, and ties from Pierre Balmain and Nina Ricci. This is geopolitics

Though it is, of course, much more deadly serious than entertainment. People get killed here from time to time. The most recent exchange of gunfire was last week, when the US Defense Secretary was taking the obligatory tour. It was a reminder that there is a vast amount of hardware arrayed here, not just tanks and guns but a million men on either side under arms, aircraft, ships, mis-

siles, and nuclear weapons.

The intensity of the experience is greater than that of the old Berlin Wall, somehow: these two countries fought a war in which 2 million people died in living memory. There is little contact, no Hans-Dietrich Genscher or Franz-Josef Strauss to bridge the gap, and Seoul's "Nordpolitik" has never attained the depth of Germany's

This is total ideological confrontation, the realisation of what one Korean academic calls the "division system". The heart of Panmunjom is

a building in the main comound where meetings between the two sides were supposed to take place under the Military Armistice Commission. They broke down some years ago, though lower-level meetings still happen periodically. But the meeting room is still there, faded green baize on the table, aging microphones propped up on it and hanging from the ceiling, the translators' booths empty.

The Military Demarcation panels - 1.292 of them, stretching from here to the sea on the other side of the permisula, 240km away. A few magpies flutter through the misty air of suring going on across the the DMZ, but apart from that DMZ. The South Koreans put nothing moves. Everything is under constant surveillance: it is probably no exaggeration to say that every square metre is post to that control point. Af- known to both sides, observed



6 Men sit in guard posts, with binoculars. watching, seeing but not seen >

Across this wasteland, the length. Statistics of this kind are music, propaganda songs which quoted with mind-numbing regdrift eerily across the empty ularity. It flies from a gargantuan space. On a distant slope, the mast erected with the sole purpose of topping the South Korean one. The South Koreans have built a village, the Freedom

North Koreans have erected a
message in vast letters: "Follow
the Leading Star", a reference
to Kim Jong II, the North Ko-Village, in the DMZ. So have the North Koreans, which the rean leader referred to as a psy-chotic in the South and the Dear South calls the Propaganda Vil-Leader in the North. The South lage. And vice-versa, doubtless. Koreans have put up their own of its national income on matter and anti-matter.

sign, which reads: "Come to the Comfortable Country".

The whole performance around the DMZ is highly stylised, ritualised even. If there is any meaning to any of this it becomes difficult, after a while, to say what it is.

There is a sense of meaning collapsing into itself, symbolism so dense that it cannot support itself, a kind of black hole. On both sides, the years of confrontation have fossilised, turn-

There is no symmetry between North and South, of course, certainly no moral or political or economic symmetry. The South is a pleasant, pros-perous place, disciplined and ordered in a Confucian way, but free. The North is a military dictatorship that spends a quarter

tween the two, a third entity exists, something that is a universe in itself: pure confrontation, total uncommunication. It may be, as the US hopes, that North and South Korea can

learn to talk, and that this week will see a breakthrough. It may be, as some in Seoul and Washington believe, that

the Pyongyang regime is crum-

Optimistically, the South is erecting a building at Panmunjom that is intended to be a customs post and immigration office. But the psychological gap to be bridged here is vast: this will not be like the unification of Germany, if it ever happens. It will be like connecting

Japan takes a hawkish view of peninsula

Richard Lloyd Parry Seoul

On the face of it, it was a n ession of the Japanese Dict's Yukihiko Ikeda, spoke of "thr ious reports and information" is not that we have confirmed this," he cautioned, "but there are reports that North Kores There are certain reports that

some have been depl The weapon to which he was referring is a ballistic mis**pli**e known as the Rodong-1 (or "Worker"), capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads. From the east coast of North Koren to the west coast of Japan is considerably less

than 1,000 km (625 miles)... Mr Ikeda declined to refeti the origin of the "reports" but a similar one appeared last week in the Sankei Shimbun, the most anti-ommunist of Japan's daily newspapers. If true, they would not be a great surprise: the Institute of Internatio gic Studies in London predicted last October that the Rodong-1 would be deployed in late 1996 or early 1997. Why then highlight the rumours now? The fact is that, in the last few

weeks, Tokyo's moderate diplo macy has changed dramatically. On the question of North Korea, Japan has been transformed from a cautious followeither South Korea or the United States, to the most hawkish of the countries directly concerned with the peninsula's fate.

The new policy has become most obvious in Japan's attitude towards food aid for North Korea. After two years of floods, the ernment in Pyongyang cannot feed its own people. After the first crop failure in 1995, Japan was one of the first to offer food. But now, in response to predictions of maminent famine, while the South has promised \$6m (£3.75m) of rice and the Uniting to consider further aid.

The official reason is a story in itself. Earlier this year, information received from a North Korean defector appeared to confirm what was suspected for years: that spies from Pyongyang during the Seventies kidnapped more than a dozen Japanese, including a girl of 13, to serve as teachers of Japanese to trainee spies.

Others look for the answer in the realignment of conservative Liberal Democrats and the opposition New Frontier Party, But the most likely explanation lies far to the south in Okinawa, where 29,000 US servicemen are stationed. Since a young girl was gang raped by three US seren in 1995, Tokyo has come under intense pre from Okinawans to send the Americans home. In persuading its own people to accept the ning American presence a missile-lobbing, childrap-ping near-neighbour is rather a useful tool - it is surely this which lies behind Japan's new

### US arms exporters explode over missile threat

#### Christopher Beliamy Defence Correspondent

The world went more ballistic than usual over the weekend, with reports that North Korea had deployed new missiles able to hit most of Japan as well as South Korea, and that Iran had tested a missile able to hit Israel. But the people who have really been going ballistic are American defence companies, accelerating their efforts to sell anti-missile systems.

As the long-range missile threat grows, a number of countries are showing interest in Russian anti-

missile defence systems, but the US would prefer them to buy its Patriot anti-missiles instead. The US, which wants to keep the Patriot production line running, has put heavy-handed sure on South Korea and the United Arab Emirates not to buy

The Russians, the world's third biggest arms sellers, are desperate to sell high-tech weapons for hard currency to ease their chronic debt and oil-rich Middle Eastern states and tiger economies like South Korea are good customers. The US, the world's biggest arms seller (Britain is num-

24-hours a day. Men sit in en down so that it does not tear

constantly watching from behind reflective glass, seeing,

There is a lot of willy-mea-

up a huge flag; so the North Ko-

reans responded with an im-

plausibly large one, 272kg in

weight, so heavy that in windy

Ikeda yesterday told a Parliamentary Committee there were unconfirmed reports that North Korea had deployed some of its Nodong-1 to Iran. ballistic missiles on mobile launchers. North On Friday Japanese television reported US spy satellites had spot-ted three Nodong-Is in positions on North Korea's eastern coast. With a range of 1,000km (625 miles), the missiles can hit targets across most of Japan and all South Korea.

Two weeks ago Israel claimed that

ber two) does not like the idea for conomic and strategic reasons.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yukihiko

Iran tested an engine for a long-range missile with an estimated range of 1,500km (950 miles). The Russians deny they were involved, although Israeli officials say they believe Russian SS-4 missile parts have been transferred

> North Korea has denied it is not very accurate and, apart from many Patriots as possible. harassment, only make sense with nuclear, biological or chemical - as \$300V (Nato codename SA-12 Gladwarheads. For this reason, states which are potential targets take these heavy pressure from the US which has systems for decades.

build anti-ballistic missile systems are the US and Russia. The US has helped Israel develop a new anti-missile, called Arrow, but its deployment is still some years off. There is no large-scale US involvement in Arrow

South Korea has indicated that it was interested in buying the Russian iator) system, but has come under

The only nations currently able to risk from a Russian-built system which was incompatible with US identification systems. UAE, 100, has come under criticism for expressing interest in the SA-12

Missile experts yesterday said the US objection that the missiles might developing a nuclear warhead for but in the interim the US, and the US be a danger to their own planes was Nodone, but missiles of this type are missile firm Raytheon, want to sell as nonsense. "They've operated in Egyptian airspace for years", said Christopher Foss, editor of Jane's Land-Based Air Defence. Egypt is one of many Middle Eastern states which have operated Soviet or Russian

THE BIG NETWORK

**NOW WORKS** 

ACROSS AMERICA.

To buy or hire a US compatible mobile for use on the GlobalRoam® Service call 0800 42 55 42. GLOBALROAM® IS OFFERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH RETWORK OPERATORS T-MOBIL (GERMANY) AND GTE (US). TELECOM SECURICOR CELLULAR RADIO LTD.



### Mustafa Amin

In the newspaper column that appeared on the day he died, Mustafa Amin wrote: "I don't know why everything related to justice in our country is slow; we should not tell those who suffer injustice to wait even 24 hours since this means subjecting them to further injustice." This daring criticism of one of Egypt's sacred institutions was typical of the best known columnist and journalist in the Middle East for decades.

Amin was regarded as one of the fathers of Arab journalism. Unlike his fellow columnists and editors who always considered the "national interest" - which often meant the official foreign policy of the government - he made the ideas of free press and democracy paramount in his widely read column.

Last year, when most journalists were welcoming the Su-danese opposition leader Sadiq al-Mahdi to Cairo - the Egyptian government is at odds with the fundamentalist regime in Khartoum - Amin criticised Mahdi for being a non-democrat who violated human rights and muzzled the press when he was prime minister of Sudan, Although Amin was a strong opponent of fundamentalist violence, he often criticised

the Egyptian security forces' heavy-handedness and the government extension of the emergency law dealing with Islamic terror groups, arguing that their terror was no excuse to violate the constitution.

In spite of the fact that he was himself tortured in jail during the time of President Gamal Abdel Nasser - an unconstitutional emergency military court in 1965 found him guilty of spy-ing for the United States because of his contacts with American diplomats, and sentenced him to life imprisonment - Mustafa Amin never grew tired of proving to his wide read-ership that his pen was mightier than the dictator's sword.

The late President Anwar Sadat freed Amin in 1974 on the recommendation of an administrative panel who investigated the original verdict. Back in the newsroom of Al Akhbar which he had founded in 1944. Amin did not spare Sadat's government - nor the current administration of President Hosny Mubarak's that followed from the sharp end of his critical pen; he was a true believer in democracy and the freedom and the independence of the Fourth Estate.

Mustafa and his twin brother Mustafa Amin's byline first ap-

Ali grew up in what is known as Beit el-Uma ("the Home of the Nation"), their maternal uncle's house, and today a museum. This uncle was their spiritual father: the nationalist Sa'ad Zaghloul Pasha was the founder of Al-Wafd, Egypt's largest political party, which in 1919 led a delegation to London, demanding that Britain evacuate its bases in Egypt. Upon his return from exile in 1922, Zaghloul Pasha won a landslide electoral victory to become the first prime minister of Egypt after it had severed its links with the Ottoman Empire. Zaghloul Pasha captured the imagination of all classes and

united the minority coptic Christians with the Muslim majority. His contacts with world leaders like Mahatma Gandhi in India gave the twins an early interest in foreign policy: Gandhi's trip to England via the Suez Canal and his speech in Port Said was reported by them in their attempts to produce their own "independent" paper at school. From a young age, the twins' idea of journalism became in-

separable from the struggle for justice, equality, freedom and the Fourth Estate. democracy, the principles for Born in Cairo in 1914, which the Wafd party stood.

peared in Cairo papers in 1928. and by the time he graduated from the American University in Cairo in 1934 he had become a respected columnist in the weekly Akher Sa'a ("Last Hour") magazine.

After finishing his higher education at Georgetown University in Washington DC in 1938, he became the editor-inchief of Akher Sa'a, and a year later moved to Al-Ahram, the oldest and most prestigious Middle Eastern daily. He introduced objective and nonbiased reporting and gave importance to news items according to their merit, rather than the political agenda of the day, which later led to confrontation with Nasser. From the 1930s, Amin be-

lieved the American constitution to be the greatest piece of legislation known to mankind and struggled to model the Egyptian press on the free press in America. By the early 1940s he had a respected byline as a reporter and columnist, but in 1944 he took a leap into the unknown by resigning his secure post as editor of *El-ethnin* to launch, with his twin brother, the Saturday weekly paper Akhbar-el-Yom.

posed censorship. Mustafa Amin's loyalty to his readership was illustrated in his Based on the style of American Sunday papers, it still famous 1961 telephone argu-

lieved that young people are a nation's greatest asset. His ed-

itorial brief to his staff was to

implant the ideas of democra-

cy and free speech in young readers' minds. This led to an early clash with Nasser's oli-

garchy who took over govern-

ment in a 1952 military coup; then in 1960 Nasser nationalised the Akhbar El-Youm group

along with other press organi-sations. Unlike other editors,

however, who either toed Nass-

er's line or went along with his

unconstitutional reforms and

semi-police state, the Amins de-

fended press freedom and op-

boasts the largest circulation of ment with Nasser when Akhbar any weekly paper in the Mid-dle East and the Arabic-speak-El-Yom gave more prominence to Marilyn Monroe's suicide than to Nasser's latest speech. ing world. Four years later the two brothers launched the dai-Amin argued that his readership ly Al-Akhbar, which some 50 survey indicated that readers were more interested in the years on is the most popular daily newspaper in the Arabic-Hollywood star than the Presspeaking world, again with the ident's speech which they had largest circulation. Within two been forced to listen to or view years, the Akhbar el-Yom the night before on all radio and group took over Akher Sa'a. television channels. In his autobiography, Five Years in Jail, he described his relationship then in 1951 founded two weeklies, Akher Lahza and Alwith a regime that had no com-Guil, a colour magazine for the young. Mustafa Amin always beprehension of free press.

After his reprieve by Sadat in 1974 he was restored to the editorship of Akhbar el-Yom in 1974, but from 1976, when his brother died, he concentrated on writing a daily column which was syndicated to many pan-Arab papers, including the pres-tigious Saudi-owned London daily Asharq-Alawsat. His choice of subject was always Egyptian, yet Arab readers loved his writings.

He was also the author of many political and non-political books and some of his semi-autobiographies and stories were turned into screenplays. He was awarded the Missouri Press Award in 1978. He also founded Lailat al-Oadar, a charity that assists the poor and needy worldwide.

In his last column, which ap-peared yesterday, he took a spir-itual view that hearts and souls unite all humans whether they are friends or foes, thus differences and quarrels should be confined to ideas and opinions. To many Egyptian intel-lectuals his death has closed one April 1997.

of the most important chapters in the history of Egyptian press. Adel Darwish

Mustafa Amin: journalist, writer, and publisher: hom Cuiro 21 February 1914; married Isis Tantawi (one daughter); died Cairo 13

the most prestigious of French

gangers

### **Mae Boren Axton**

"Heartbreak Hotel" is a song that changed the world. It launched Elvis Presley as an international star and created a much-emulated sound. It assured Mae Boren Axton, who co-wrote the song, of a regular income, although she remained one of the most industrious people in Nashville.

She was born Mae Boren in 1914 in Bardwell, Texas, but was raised in Oklahoma. There were many politicians within her family - her brother, David, became a state senator. She obtained a degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and then worked for Life magazine as a reporter. In the mid-Thirties, she married a schoolteacher, John Axton, who liked to sing for pleasure (their son, Hoyt, who was born in 1938, became a musician).

By 1950 she was teaching in Jacksonville, Florida and started songwriting with two local musicians, Tommy Durden and Glen Reeves. She also worked never recorded any more of Ax. Axion continued in publicas a publicist for Hank Snow, a ton's songs, although he did too. Yet and radio work and, as her Colonel Tom Parker, and saw Parker's new signing, Élvis Presley, in concert in May 1955.

Her songwriting partner, Tommy Durden, read a story in the Miami Herald about a man who committed suicide in a hotel and left a note which said. "I walk a lonely street." He suggested to Axton that it could make a good blues song. She replied that it must have been a "hearthreak hotel" and that they must write the song for Presley. They completed

"Heartbreak Hotel" within an hour, and Axton asked Glen Reeves to cut the demo for Presley. She offered him a share of the royalties but he declined to

In November 1955, Axton, who was also working as a disc jockey, playing country music, attended a radio convention in Nashville. While there, she played the demo to Elvis Presley. His reaction was, "Hot dog, Mae, play that again!" He heard the demo 10 times over, by which time he had memorised the song. Axton knew Presley was about to move to RCA Records and she offered him a song-writing credit for "Heartbreak Hotel", and thereby a third of the royalties, if he made it his first single with

In April 1956 "Heartbreak Hotel" became Elvis Presley's first American chart-topper and set him up as an international star. Strangely, Presley Ronnie McDowell. "Never Been To Spain". Within weeks of its success, "Heartbreak Hotel" had been brilliantly satirised by Stan Freberg. Another, less funny parody was "Heartbroke Motel" by

Homer and Jethro. To date, "Heartbreak Hotel" has been recorded by artists including Ann-Margret, Chet Atkins, Pat Boone, Delaney and Bonnie, Adam Faith, Frijid Pink, Roger Miller, Willie Nelson with Leon Russell, John Cale, the Portsmouth Sinfonia

and Conway Twitty. Some of these versions also sound like parodies, and none of them come close to Presley's. The song also inspired "Lonely Street" by Andy Williams and "Lonesome Town" by Rick

Neither Axton nor Durden ever came up with other compositions as successful as "Heartbreak Hotel". Axton's other songs were relegated to B-sides or album fillers and are hardly known at all: "Pick Me Up On Your Way Down" (Patsy Cline), "What Do I Know Ibday" (Hank Snow) and "Honey Bop" (Wanda Jackson). Durden became the steel guitarist for the pop star Johnny Tiliot-son. In 1977, on Presley's death, Durden recorded a tribute record, "Elvis", to the tune of "Love Me Tender". At the same time, Axton wrote the sleeve notes to an Elvis tribute album, The King Is Gone, by

client of the music promoter er a song by her son Hoyt, son Hoyt remarked, "Our house was like Grand Central Station." In 1963 Hoyt had his first success with "Greenback Dollar" for the Kingston Trio and he has since recorded several albums of his own material and become an established

film actor. Although she did not write an autobiography, in 1973 Axton published a memoir, Country Singers As 1 Know 'Em (1973). In 1992, she started a record label, DPJ, and released albums by Hoyt Axton and Mel Mc-



'Hot dog, Mae, play that again': Axton (right) with Ted Wilburn

Daniel. One of her discoveries, the 17-year-old singer Mario Martin, released "Wasted Time, Wasted Tears" (1994), which Axton had written with Durden. Spencer Leigh

Mae Boren (Mae Boren Axton), songwriter: born Bardwell, Texas 14 September 1914; married John Axion (two sons); died Hendersonville, Tennessee 9 April

### **David Shahar**

David Shahar's background was very different from the majority of Israeli writers and intellectuals of his generation, most of whom were secular new immigrants mainly from Europe. Shahar was born in Jerusalem of a pious ultra-orthodox Jewish family which had been settled in the city for five generations. After an orthodox education he studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His early life was lived against the backdrop of the tumultuous events of the British Mandate over Palestine: Arab riots against Jewish immigration, the Second World War and the subsequent struggle on the part of the Jewish community (the Yishuv) to get rid of the British.

Involved first with the rightwing Etzel group (the Irgun Tz-vai Leumi) and then with the aggressively secular Canaanite movement - which sought to renounce all attachment to Jewhistory in an identification with a physical land of Canada empired any Jewish Committee

Shahar was doubly on the native-born and originally orthodox in a predominantly secular immigrant society and a right-wing ultra-nationalist in a literary monde which was predominantly socialist.

As a child of the Mandate it

is the tensions of the fractured society of the time and particularly the atmosphere of Mandate Jerusalem that Shahar more than any other writer has managed to convey and preserve in his works. And because

of a certain ideological detach-ment he succeeded in eschewing the conventional solutions of Israeli post-war writing which usually identified the protagonist with the aspirations of

Labour Zionism. Shahar's works are on the contrary full of a remarkable parade of characters drawn from his childhood memories of Jerusalem – a cosmopolitan undivided city in which almost all the languages of the world could be heard. Shahar's Jerusalem has much in common with Lawrence Durrell's Alexandria. For Shahar, Jerusalem is both a celestial and earthly city which he peopled with somewhat marginal people: brilliant eccentrics, madmen, prostitutes, artists and mystics, as if to make what indeed was one of his central points - that the mystical and the depressingly normal are always two sides of the same coin.

His attempt to recreate this like past has led French critics partiaularly to dub him the Israeli Proust. Far better loved and even better known in France, margins of Israeli literary life: than in his native Israel, Shahar has spent the last years between Paris and Jerusalem. In France he was awarded the Prix Médicis Etranger and made Commander in the Ordre des arts et des lettres. The relative rejection of Shahar in Israel no doubt has its roots in the ideology of the lit-erary establishment. But Shahar played a role himself, he was a prickly man who rejoiced in his position as an outsider. In recent years while he was being pub-lished in translation by Gallimard

publishers - he had a series of dis-putes with Israeli publishers and eventually set up his own pub-lishing house to bring out what was probably his masterpiece, the seven-volumed historical saga Palace of Broken Vessels. Recently reprinted in a special edition by the Israeli Ministry of Culture, the novel has as a central character called Gabriel Luria whose distant ancestor Isaac ben Shlomo was a leading 16th-century Kabbalist in Safed. This haunting, epic series of novels consciously sets out to create a new mythology of Jewish existence. Shahar's translated works include News from Jerusalem (1979); Summer in the Road of the Prophets (1973), A Voyage to Ur of the Chaldees (1971) and The Day of the Countess (1976), all part of The Palace of Shattered Vessels; His Majesty's Agent (1979); Ricky's Secret Day of the Ghosts (1988), The Moon of Honey and Gold (1959, translated 1991); and The Palace Stairs:

a Tammuz night's dream (1991). Despite his uncomfortable reestablishment David Shahar became chairman of the Hebrew Writers Association and won some of Israel's most sought after literary prizes including the Bialik Prize. the Agnon Prize and the Prime Minister's Prize.

**Tudor Parlitt** 

David Shahar, writer: born Jerusalem 17 June 1926; married 1956 Shulamith Weinstock (one son, one daughter); died Paris 2

#### J. B. G. Thomas

No man can have written as many words on rugby union as J.B.G. Thomas, who for 36 years, as the chief rugby writer of the Western Mail. kept the Welsh nation up to date on its favourite pastime. He became as well known as many of the players he wrote about and as influential in the sport as the administrators with whom he forged such a strong bond of trust.

Revered in his homeland, he was seen as a "New Zealand hater" Down Under because of his often vehement denunciation of their style of play. He was highly critical of the way the 1959 Lions lost the Test series

Blacks won the first of four matches 18-17 thanks to six penalty goals kicked by Don Clarke to four tries by the Lions. He accused the New Zealanders of cheating when they beat Wales 13-12 at Cardiff Arms Park in the second Test of their Grand Slam tour of the British Isles in 1978.

in New Zealand, when the All

Thomas's astute eye caught the full sequence of the diving out of the line-out by the Ali Blacks' locks, Frank Oliver and Andy Haden, which earned their side a match-winning penalty. Having seen Wales defeat New Zealand in 1935, and reported on another outstanding Welsh victory in Cardiff in 1953, Thomas, like so many other Welsh rugby lovers, had thought the long want for another success was about to be ended.

Then came the dive, a Brian McKechnie penalty and a bitter defeat for Wales. Thomas's front page accusations about the cheating All Blacks were flashed around the world. Significantly, they were later borne out in Haden's autobiography, which chronicled the plan to dupe the English referee, Roger Quit-tenton. The incident highlighted Thomas's ability to tackle hard-news stories as well as provide informed comment on players and matches. Through them all he was scrupulously fair. Born in Pontypridd, Thomas's lifelong passion for rugby was launched by his father, when he took him to see Wales play in the

1920s. Although Thomas's first job was as a civil servant at the Cardiff City Hall he was an avid writer even then, regularly sending match reports and features to local newspapers. He joined the Royal Navy during the Second World War and, after being commissioned in the RNVR, rose to the rank of First Lieutenant on a minesweeper. He retained an in-

terest in naval history and ships throughout his life, although his real passion was trains. He joined the Western Mail.

the national newspaper of Wales, in 1946 as chief rugby writer and quickly made an impact. He was appointed sports editor in 1965 and became assistant editor of the paper in the late Seventies.

He became the paper's first writer to cover a Lions tour, when he spent more than three months away with the 1955 party in South Africa. That was the first of eight successive Li-ons tours that he covered for the paper and he followed up each

one with a book. In all he wrote the fact that his editor once told 28 books on rugby between 1954 and 1980 and was appointed MBE for his services to

iournalism in 1984.

Stories of his generosity to players on tour were legion, anecdotes about his ability to entertain legend. Thomas -known as "Bryn" (short for Brinley) - was the doyen of rugby writers, not merely in Wales, and was a former chairman, as well as a founding member, of both the Rugby Union Writers Club and the Welsh Rugby Writers' Association.

The effect his writing was able to generate is best illustrated by

him to "make a few mistakes" when predicting the Welsh team so that the readers of the Westem Mail would not think it was he who picked the national side.

"Like all young players who wanted to succeed in the game my first thought on a Monday morning was to open the paper and see what J.B.G. had said", said the former Wales and Lions scrum-half Gareth Edwards. "His affinity with players was strongly forged and many of us looked upon him as a father figure." No greater tribute could be offered to any sports writer.



as: doyen of rugby writers

John Brinley George Thomas, journalist: born Pontypridd, South Glamorgan 29 April 1917; mar-ried 1941 Gwen Owen (died 1985; three sons); died 11 April 1997.

### Births. Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

KIRBY: Jane (nee Putterill) and An-thony are delighted to announce the birth of Laetina Alexandra Eleanor, on 10 April 1997, a sister for Toby and MASON: On 13 April, to Craig

Mason and Diane Wailes, a daughter Emily Alice Mason, Baby and moth-er are both doing very well.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Bules of Estimate Parties, vists the Lucented Victuallers National Harnes, Chericle, Middlesex and as Patron, Corward Bourd Broot, attends the Ostward Bound Patronis Company. Dancer for the Young President Creatment at \$1 James 8 Palace. The Darks of Vork, Prosident, presents the Royal Acro Cheb Annual Awards at Goldsmiths' Hall, London ECC.

Changing of the Guard Creating ring or the County The Household Cavalty Mounted Regiment manns the Queen's Life Guard at Harma Gourds, Harn, Ist Bustainon The Royal Reg-iment of Wales mounts the Queen's Guard, at Bushingham Palace, 11 Jun, hand pro-saled by the Greenairer Guards.

#### Birthdays Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, novelist, 57; Dame Jocelyn Barrow,

former deputy chairman, Broad-casting Standards Council, 68; Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, BBC National Governor for Northern Ireland, 66; Gp Capt David Bolton, vicechairman, the Analytical Sciences Corporation Europe, 65; Sir Michael Bond, Professor of Psychological Medicine, Glasgow University, 61; Sir Adrian Cadbury, a director of the Bank of England, 68; Mr Tony Calvert, founder, Terrence Higgins Trust, 41; Miss Claudia Cardinale, actress, 59; Mr Dave Edmunds, rock guitarist, 53; Sir Richard Evans, former diplomat, 69; Miss Samantha Fox, singer and model, 31; Lord Geraint, former MP, 72; Mr Patrick Gillam, chairman, Standard Chartered plc. 64; Lord Grey of Naunton, former Chancellor, Ulster University, 87: Mr John Grigg, historian, 73; Sir David Keene, High Court judge, 57; Sir Hugh Laddie, High Court judge, 51; Sir Neville Marriner, con-ductor, 73; Professor Charles Marsden, neurologist, 59; Sir Peter Menzies, former chairman, Elec

tricity Council, 85; Earl Russell, his-

torian, 60; Sir Maurice Shock, former

Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 71; Sir Leslie Smith, former chair-

man, BOC Group, 78; Dr Godfrey Stafford, former Master, St Cross

College, Oxford, 77; Miss Emma Thompson, actress, 38; Miss Meriol

Dr Richard von Weizsacker, former president of Germany, 77; Sir Douclas Wass, chairman, Equity & Law Life Assurance Society, 74; Mr Marty Wilde, singer and composer, 58.

#### Anniversaries

Births: Pierre-Etjenne Theodore Rousseau, painter, 1812; Henry James, novelist, 1843; Bessie Smith, blues singer, 1894. Deaths: Abraham Lincoln, 16th US president, from shot wound, 1865; John Singer Sargent. portrait painter, 1925; Jean-Paul Sartre, philosopher and writer, 1980; Arthur Lowe, actor, 1982; Tommy Cooper, comedian, 1984. On this day: the Bank of England issued the first tive-pound note, 1793; the White Star liner Titanic sank on her maiden voyage after colliding with an an iceberg, and 1,513 lives were lost, 1912; 95 Liverpool football fans were crushed to death in the stand at Hillsborough Stadium, Sheffield, 1989. Today is Easter Eve and the Feast Day of Saints Anastasia and Basilissa, St Humna or Huva, St Patern or Padam of Wales and St Ruadhan.

#### Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Drawings (iii): Rosalba Carriera and the postel portrait", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Christine Riding, "Rechniques of Deco-rating 18th-century Furniture (ii)",

#### Acquiescence a matter of parent's subjective intention Re H and Others (Minors); House of Lords (Lord Browne-

Wilkinson, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Hoffman, Lord Clyde) 10 April 1997

The question whether a wronged parent had acquiesced in the wrongful removal of children for the purposes of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 1990 was one of subjective intention, and

was a pure question of fact. The House of Lords gave reasons for having allowed an appeal by the father against the decision of the Court of Appeal allowing the mother's appeal against the decision to return her children to Israel under the

Convention. The father and mother were both strict Orthodox Jews. The mother had taken their children from their home in Israel and had brought them to England without the consent of the fa-

#### father, as required by his religion, had taken no part in the

proceedings until authorised to rather than promptly bringing do so by his local Beth Din (a proceedings for the summary religious court of law), when he return of the children under Arreligious court of law), when he immediately invoked the Convention procedures. Article 12 of the Convention

provided for the return of a child who had been wrongfully removed or retained, and Article 13 provided that the requested state was not bound to order the return of such a a rule of law. child where the person opposing its return established that, of the child had consented to or subsequently acquiesced in

the removal or retention. Mark Everall QC and Marcus Scott-Manderson (Reynolds Porter Chamberlain) for the appellant: Judith Parker QC and Lewis Marks (Mishcon De Reya) for the respondent.

ther. She had begun proceed- Lord Browne-Wilkinson said wronged parent. The authorities ings in the county court. The that the primary question was did not support that proposition.

#### LAW REPORT

whether the father, by pursuing his remedies in the Beth Din ticle 12, had acquiesced in the removal of the children. The Court of Appeal had applied a rule of law, namely that in a case of "active" acquiescence, the actual state of the father's mind was irrelevant. The ques-

tion was whether there was such

The distinction between "active" and "passive" acquiesinter alia, the person having care cence had first been drawn in Re A (Minors) (Abduction: Custody Rights) [1992] Fam 106. The test applied by the Court of Appeal in the present case suggested that evidence of the wronged parent's actual intentions were irrelevant or seldom of any weight where there had been positive action of any kind by the

wronged parent. The authorities

The appeal should not, however, be decided on that narrow ground. The authorities disclosed a variety of approaches to the meaning of "acquies-cence" in Article 13 and it was desirable that their Lordships should attempt to state the principles to be adopted. The first question to consider

was whether acquiesence was subjective or objective. It was a concept which occurred in many different contexts in English law and which varied according to that context. Those English law concepts had, however, no direct application to the proper construction of Ar-ticle 13. An international convention could not be construed differently in different jurisdictions. In his Lordship's judgment, acquiescence was a question of the actual subjective intention of the wronged

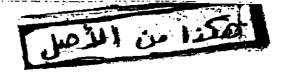
parent Once that was established, it

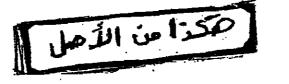
was clear that the question of acquiescence was a pure question of fact to be determined by the trial judge. Judges should be slow to infer an intention to acquiesce from attempts by the wronged parent to effect a reconciliation or the voluntary return of the abducted child. Finally, it should always be borne in mind that under Article 13 the burden of proving acquiescence was on the abducting

parent. The only exception was where the words or actions of the wronged parent clearly and unequivocally showed and had led the other parent to believe that he was not asserting or going to assert his right to summary return of the child, and were inconsistent with such

Applying that approach to the present case, the judge had found that in fact the father had never acquiesced, and the mother had not shown that the case came within the exception.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister





## A glimmer of hope for stability in Zaire

remarkable thing has been forces of President Mobutu before happening in central Africa over the past few months. A portion of Zaire roughly equivalent in size to western Europe has fallen to a rebel army. Given the continent's post-colonial history, this is not in itself so momentous. But that this huge swathe of mineral-rich territory should fall with minimal bloodshed - that is indeed remarkable, and the implications for the rest of Africa could be huge.

The rebel forces of Laurent Kabila have now taken control of every important city in Zaire apart from the capital, Kinshasa, which remains under the (loose) control of President Mobutu sese Seko and forces loyal to him. America, long Mr Mobutu's ally in the Cold War, has let it be known that he has now served his purpose. By consigning him to the dustbin of history, Western countries are clearly hoping that the country can hold together under a leader more disposed to rationality and decency. The hope in the West is that Mr Kabila can provide that. The pattern of the rebels' conquest has been almost uniform. They have made plain what their next target was, given the Zaire government troops time to flee and then marched into an undefended town. Rape and

they fled.

The difference in cultures between the rival armies could hardly be larger. The government forces are defending the father of kleptocracy. The primary function of the Zairean economy since Mobutu Sese Seko came to power 32 years ago has been to enrich the president and his cronies. The secondary function has been to enrich those Western mining companies that have benefited from a symbiotic relationship with him.

Frederic Ilunga N'Goy, head of a Zairean company, summed up the rules succinctly this week when he said: "We were all Mobutists so we were all living on bribes." In such a culture, it is impossible to survive without being sucked in some way perhaps marginally, perhaps profoundly - into the vortex of corruption. Most African people today are victims of such culture. There is one predictable law - oppose the leader at your peril - but most other aspects of life are unpredictable.

The good news for the West is that the Zairean rebels are attempting to impose a kind of discipline on this chaos. The bad news is that the discipline has a heavy Marxist flavour. They want to "divide the spoils of the state among all citizens", and they pillage has been carried out by the are renegotiating the contracts



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-298 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2485 / 0171-345 2435

signed by Mobutu with the mining

The rhetoric of Mr Kabila has been par for the course, given that his aim is to gain control of wealth and power beyond the dreams of avarice: First we must liberate the country, and then all parties will be free to contest future elections. The ideology of the Alliance [his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire] is to give everybody his place, to let everybody do as they

Such a libertarian ethos has been voiced by future dictators since the end of the colonial era. However, there is at least some reason to hope that, should Mr Kabila ultimately take power in Kinshasa (Western observers think this could happen by June), his regime might impose order on the country which allows for, to put it no more strongly, some degree of economic improvement and some extension of political liberty for the population as a whole. Given the depredations of Mobutu, this is not to say much, but it is something.

The main concern of the mining companies, as always, is the social discipline necessary to make profits and the government compliance necessary to repatriate them. Democracy is useful to them if it furthers these ends. The main concern of Western governments is likely to be - as always - "stability," which in this context means an end to the fighting and the preservation of Zaire's frontiers.

Of course, Mr Kabila is not there yet, and much blood could still flow. So far, opposition demonstrations have been met by force, but mainly batons and tear-gas rather than bullets. However, government forces could yet run amok. And there is the vexed and complex question of the relations between the Zairean political opposition (led by Etienne Tshisekedi, who has significant support in Kinshasa) and the rebels. Mr Kabila recently rejected without ceremony a Tshisekedi offer of key ministries in a future government.

Yesterday, Kofi Annan, the secretary general of the United Nations, appealed to the rebel leader to stop fighting and start negotiating over the future of the country. There is little reason for Mr Kabila to respond positively to this appeal. If he wants to be next president of Zaire, that is not the best way to go about it. But he does appear to want to bring the country back into the world. He has already had informal contact with British diplomats outside the country, at his own request, as part of a strategy of building bridges to the West. Most importantly, he has already revealed a taste for power by consent, rather than power through fear. As long as this remains his taste. he should be encouraged.

#### Oh, what a tangled web ...

You can't tell the truth all the time, can you?" honest John Prescott asked plaintively at the weekend. His defence was that what he said could be distorted and the Tory press would over-react - which is true, but it is also a calculation familiar to wellmeaning liars everywhere. So when is it permissible to lie? The danger with the concept of the "white lie", as any parent will know who has tried to explain it to a child, is that it is the person doing the lying who decides whether or not it is right. There are some agreed special cases in politics - outlined by William Waldegrave, the Minister of Truthful Economy - such as devaluation. But it is generally better in politics, as in our private lives, to tell the truth - preparing the ground in advance where necessary.

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### **Hunt angers** country people too

t his message

in the section of the

der fire\*

gree.

Sir: The idea the blood-sports issue is a debate between country person and ignorant townie ("Townies who would rule the country", 14 April) is yet another fallacy touted by the

hunting fraternity.

People living in large cities
naturally oppose the idea of killing
animals simply for entertainment,
but it is not a big issue for them.
They are more likely to be concerned about people living rough on the streets. Just as many people living in rural areas, as has been shown by numerous opinion polls, are against blood sports and are much better informed on the issues, as they affect their daily.

The vast majority of our active port comes from people livil in the country, many of whom have lived and worked there all their lives. The reason so many hunters apparently believe that everyone in the country favours blood sports is that they move in such limited social circles.

JOHN COOPER League Against Cruel Sports. London SE1

Sir: Duff Hart-Davis (article, 12 April) accurately describes the contribution made by local hunts to their rural locality.

Like many others I love to watch the huntsman working his hounds as much as I love to watch a as intended working his collie. It has a magic that nothing else can match. Our local hunt also provides

social events, including a popular farmers' supper which provides a focus for our community as nothing else does. Hunts provide a service to a community whose livelihood is becoming increasingly beleaguered and solitary. If we lose our hunt what will take its place? Take hunting away and the countryside will lose yet more of its distinctiveness and colour and character.

While the fox is a part of the ecological fabric of our countryside it also needs to be controlled. We not only see the benefits of control on our lambs but in the increased numbers of ground-nesting birds. The hunt provides sufficient control to maintain the diversity (including foxes) of farmland wildlife in our locality. This is opposed to the dreaded use of a high-powered rifle (not to mention the snare), used at night with a spot-light from the back of a pickup, which indiscriminately shoots all foxes seen, and not all of them are shot dead. DENISE WALTON Foulden, Berwickshire

Sir: To answer some of Duff Hart-Davis's comments: firstly, it is a fact that several thousand hounds are already slaughtered every year to make way for the new intake. A hound's life is about six to seven.

Secondly. I have yet to hear any plausible reason why hunts cannot turn to drag-hunting. Why is this simplistic? Because John Berkeley would not be happy to see them go drag-hunting" is scarcely an answer. There is as much art in controlling hounds on a drag-hunt as any I have seen practised by a

huntsman to date. Thirdly, only about 7 per cent of horses are used for hunting, so even if hunts were to close down few saddlers or farriers would be unemployed, but with drag hunting no one needs lose their no oue needs lose them perhaps those Stockport, Cheshire



terrier men who are paid to dig out the fox gone to ground.

Lastly, I see no reason, given the great financial support that drag-hunting could create, why all the other country pursuits listed by Mr Hart-Davis could not continue. Is slaughtering its inhabitants for fun really the only way to look after our countryside?
JULIE ROXBURGH Leatherhead, Surrey

Sir: Lesley Ellis (letter, 12 April) has misrepresented the National Trust. The trust's council is mandated to implement policy which is formulated to best represent the wishes of a majority

of the membership.
As a member of the trust, Lesley Ellis is able to take part in the debate through their regular\_ publications and general meetings. She must be aware that in recent years the trust has commissioned a number of reports on the management of land, and control of deer population, in response to resolutions of general meetings. Following publication of those reports, the council decided in

avour of the hunting status quo. However, one omission from those reports was any consideration of animal welfare. That omission has now been corrected after a further members' resolution. As a result of the latest report, the council's decision to ban stag-hunting is the proper one. It is fully respecting the views of the majority of members who have expressed an opinion on the subject, and is not being bullied by anybody. Should the trust now go on and ban fox-hunting and fishing on its land? Of course it should if that is what the membership wants. BRIAN WRAY

Sir: The humane decision of the National Trust to ban staghunting on its land puts to shame the Church of England, one of the biggest land-owners in the country, which still refuses to ban

Church House has just told me that "the Church Commissioners leave it up to the conscience of the individual tenant of the land as to whether they allow hunting on it". In other words, the matter of rent comes before animal

welfare.
So while congregations all over the UK sing the praises of "all creatures great and small", an innocent animal is being hunted to death outside on church land with ecclesiastical permission. GEORGE McMILLAN Westcliff-on-Sea.

Sir. We are asked to feel pity for the industry hunting supports, and not ban hunting because to do so would end hundreds of years of tradition. The communities that the hunt supports would suffer great hardship caused by the consequent

unemployment. How many hunt supporters stood alongside the miners when their industry and communities were wiped out? The suffering the mine closure programme caused to hundreds of thousands of people in this country puts the plight of the hunt in perspective. If you are a hunt supporter or employee, don't ask for my sympathy. RPDOWELL Blaydon, Tyne & Wear

#### Real social work goes to the wall

Sir: Joyce Brand's article on social work (9 April) risks a knee-jerk reaction in terms of old guard and new brooms - but that would not do justice to the issues it raises. At stake is the loss of a skilled, established (albeit imperfect)

means of addressing social need, with nothing of comparable effectiveness to put in its place. When I retired last year from mental health social work, my role was already being referred to as "care manager, also known as social worker". The scope for working face-to-face over a useful period of time with a client was rapidly giving way to the role of assessor/budget-holder, with its in-built conflict over perception of need against rationing of scarce resources.

This process of change has been oushed ahead in haste. It is naive of the Hackney councillor (letter, 11 member states. April) to maintain that a new age of community care is dawning, courtesy of the private and voluntary sector. Yes, voluntary agencies have played an honourable and respected role for many years, but what we are now seeing is the proliferation of new, detail remains. inexperienced and marketorientated agencies scrambling to take over the roles shed by local authorities, their success hanging

services that are pared to the bone financially. In this situation, "choice" for the user (the loudly hyped raison d'être)

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

largely on being able to offer

is virtually non-existent, whilst monitoring of standards, and accountability, become increasingly difficult to guarantee. Meanwhile, the task of counselling those in distress is either squeezed in between crisis work and administrative tasks, or is simply

going to the wall. These are issues that impact on many, many people. With the general election pending, they deserve a high profile with the political parties and the electorate.
ALISON TERRINGTON South Ruislip, Middlesex

#### Europe's choices already made

Sir: Sarah Helm ("Could Tony ever be as big as Helmut?", 8 April)
perpetuates the idea that Europe is about "counter-weights" and power pacts against large or small

If Tony Blair thinks he will find allies for an alternative Europe he is sorely mistaken. The arguments about, broadly, to what degree power is divided between states and the EU on a "federal" basis have already been made. Only the

Recent comments about a flexible Europe from France and Germany only mean that they are prepared to institutionally isolate a Eurosceptic Britain – while Lisbon. Madrid, Rome, Prague and Warsaw race past us to the hard-core next

Tony Blair can put forward ideas

for greater EU democracy, and

accountability and reform, but

debates among other members

are already years ahead - just

look at the ideas being put forward for incorporating the WEU and removing border Britain has one decision to make. Do we accept the direction taken already by the other member states and become European - or

do we leave? ROBERT COPPINGER Young European Movement

#### Cash clash

Sir: I am grateful for David Lister's kind piece about the ICA (11 April). There were two factual inaccuracies: Westminster cut our grant by £36,500, not £200,000: and, as much as I'd like to, I don't have the power to make the Clash re-form . PHILIP DODD Director Institute of Contemporary Arts London SWI

#### All clear now?

Sir: Let me understand this. Towards the end of the Gulf war. the USA decide against ramming their victory home. They explain this magnanimity in terms of some high-falutin' scruple. Meantime, without international support, they pay to foment civil way in Iraq ("CIA botched Saddam overthrow", 11 April), and condone bombing of civilian targets (or terrorism as it is known in Oklahoma). Am I mad, or is this

**DUNCAN ANTONIO** Elgin, Moray

#### The true story of Noah's Ark

Sir: A couple of years ago, as part of a Bible study course, I asked a group of adults to read the whole story of Noah (Genesis 5:28-9:29) and tell me what they thought it meant. None of the group had any special heological knowledge or sophistication. After much discussion, their conclusion was this: the story shows that God loves the world more than he hates the evil it contains.

While this explanation will naturally be unsatisfactory for various reasons to many people, it does have the advantage of being a faithful interpretation of the scriptural record, and surely offers more hope to any believer than debate about the economics of shipbuilding, pieces of timber on mountainsides, the management of animals at sea, creationism versus evolution etc (letters, 10, 14 April).

Stories survive because they touch on the truth of the human condition, and are open to multiple interpretations. Biblical stories go further, and relate the human condition to the nature and purpose of God. The story of Noah does this. That is why children love it. and adults argue about it. It is a true

The Rev CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS Barlby, North Yorkshire

#### Maths in the bathroom Sir: Excited by the prospect of

possessing my very own piece of practical Penrose tiling ("Kleenex art that ended in tears", 12 April), 1 purchased the last two-pack of white quilted Kleenex toilet tissue in my local supermarket.

Readers may be interested to know that in this particular Penrose tiling, made up of fat and thin rhombuses (squashed squares), the ratio of the number of fat rhombuses to the number of thin ones is equal to the Golden Mean (1.618 to three decimal places, or more precisely a half plus half the square root of 5). Of course this is only true if the rules for making the tiling have been followed exactly!

Rather than requiring that Kleenex dispose of all this toilet tissue, perhaps Professor Penrose could insist that a brief explanation of the tiling is included on the wrapper. There could even be a competition to discover how many sheets of the tissue are required for the ratio of fat to thin rhombuses to reach the Golden Mean, to, say, three decimal places. Although this might lead to queues for the lavatory, what better way to demonstrate to the British public that no aspect of life is untouched by mathematics and science? ANNE TREVILLION Paddock Wood, Kem

#### Battlebus fare

Sir: You rightly complain of the £7,500 fee for your reporter to accompany the Labour battlebus (Letter from the Editor, 12 April). The remedy is simple. Do not report any Labour activity for two days. Should they complain, your response could be that of their minder - "We are not a charity, you know."

An objection that you are not carrying out your journalistic duty could be met by identifying your new policy as that of "New JEFFREY J LESSER London N20

Tory or Labour,

the next

government faces some

hard decisions

about defence

cuts and their

ability to fight

effect on our

war, argues

**Bellamy** 

Christopher

Britain's last Field Marshal, Sir

Peter Inge, speaking just before

a major

Britain sounds the retreat

he retired on 2 April, "is Britain's ability to fight high-intensity war." The next gov-ernment will have either to maintain defence spending at its present levels and possibly increase it - which a Labour government would find difficult. though not impossible to justify or cut something very big indeed. If it is the latter, the Army is in the frame. Sir Peter was probably Britain's last Field Marshal. bility that missiles fired from the Middle East may soon reach us. The rank has been abolished in "peacetime" - and there will be But, continually pressed for no more "wartime", because resources, military planners are there will be no more big wars. also having to face the biggest defence choice in 90 years. Let us hope so, anyway. Instead, Should we give up our com-mitment to high-intensity con-

we face a world of continuous engagement: in our own internal security problems - North-em Ireland; in peace-keeping -Bosnia and, possibly, Zaire; and in peace enforcement and limited war - as in the Gulf. But although a third of the Army is on active service (preparing to paradoxically it is the Army's fast-moving, armoured cutting edge that is looking vulnerable. Defence is not an election

issue. Yet there are huge issues to be addressed. As we enter the likely to become critical in 21st century, we are grappling with the prospect of cyber-warfare (to which our informationbased society becomes more vulnerable every day), with changes in the role and status of the nation state, and the possi- the purchase of three new

nuclear submarines, costing £2bn - are always counted in billions. That would buy an awful lot of hospitals, and pay an awful lot of teachers.

The MoD's cash plans currently envisage spending about £22bn a year. MoD officials pritinental land war, a commit-ment shouldered in 1907? The vately believe the next Chancellor will want £3bn from next government will have to defence for other, more immediately pressing purposes -reducing this year's budget to £19bn, or £18bn after receipts make some fundamental choices on Britain's military posture in the world. That is not from the sale of married quarcised the Government for not achieve that, something big has

spending enough, placing the Labour has committed itself "defence of the realm" at risk to a strategic defence review, and leaving a massive hole in the defence budget, which is designed to look at exactly what tasks we are trying to do and what forces we need to do them. around 2003. So you might think that, given the chance, The plan is to complete it within Labour would actually spend six months of initiating the more on defence. Clearly, they review in order to minimise will not. Major defence projects disruption to the forces, which, any senior officer or civil servant - the last to be announced was will tell you, desperately need a

strategic defence review? We've done one. Here it is." What if Labour's strategic review finds that JWP 0-01 has got the conceptual framework right? Would a new Labour government, six months or so into its new term, accept that?

bility even before the review

starts - there is now. So, as a

The government has recently published the first-ever British

Publication 0-01), an "overar-

ching document setting out

the British view on the nature

of war and armed conflict and

what the armed forces are

back to the mid-Eighties, to

intellectualise the way we think

about these things. But the

exact timing of its release was

clearly designed tip pre-empt Labour's strategic defence

review. "Why would we need a

do quickly".

And suppose Labour's review decided that we were right to carry on doing every-thing we do now. The defence budget is infinitely susceptible to creative accounting, but there is certainly a £300m hole in it at the moment; and to be safe, it probably needs another £500m a year to do everything it would like to on present plans. A true back-to-basics review might also conclude that we need Ballistic Missile Defence: an anti-missile missile system, to deal with the

period of stability. In practice, there will be unease and instamissiles by unpredictable Middle Eastern potentates who are not susceptible to deterrence. And that we need to reduce the wise man said, "that thou doest, vulnerability of our entire information-based society to cyberwar waged on the Internet. To do all that would mean raising the defence budget by another billion a year -£1.5bn a year in Defence Doctrine (Joint Warfare

Realistically, no. Clearly, therefore, something about. It was the product of a has to go. Of the three services,

all. Would a future government

do that?

**6** The issue is nothing less than the Army's relegation to the second division 9

the Air Force looks relatively secure. The overwhelming dominance of air power in any operations and the industrial conse-quences of pulling out of major aircraft and missile projects make that option unattractive particularly to Labour.

Given the changes in Europe since the end of the Cold War, and the disappearance of the threat of a land invasion, senior military planners are now having to think the unthinkable. The maintenance of an armoured division in Europe, and the associated ability to would have to be sacrificed. Either that, or a large chunk of the Navy (or of the Air Force.) The good news is that Britain is most unlikely to have to

undertake a military operation alone. Just about every forseeable future war would be fought by a coalition. Theoretically, therefore, individual nations in Nato could specialise. The Navy, understandably, believes that as an island we should specialise in things maritime and leave driving tanks around Gerinternal security and international peace-keeping. But do we now need that 25,000-strong armoured division as the core of a top-of-the-range continental

land army? The snag in this argument is that, at the moment, the Navy is not fighting anybody, or standing on street corners making sure they behave them-

5,300 in Bosnia come from bases in Germany. Merely pulling 25,000 troops and their families out of Germany would not save very much money: in fact, it would probably cost money as new accommodation would have to be built in Britain. Land for training in Britain is already tight: the Army would like 85,000 acres more, though it will not get it. As weapons get bigger and fire further - the range of artillery has doubled in 20 years - training land is a real problem. The

increased use of simulators, is new training land in Poland and Ukraine - which is much easier (and cheaper) - to get to from Germany.

The only way of saving a sig-nificant amount of money would be to ditch the lot. What is at issue is therefore nothing less than the relegation of the British Army to the second division. To a peace-keeping-only Army, like the Canadian or the Irish. · Senior officers are unani-

mous that there is a certain critmans. We will need soldiers for not go, a certain group of skills you must have to be a serious Army. Tanks, artillery, armoured infantry, attack helicopters, anti-aircraft and antitank missiles, command, control, communications and intelligence. The Army does not believe it could, for example, do away with Main Battle tanks - the 60-ton Challengers -without breaking up that care-

seives. The Army is.

Most of the 17,000 troops in
Northern Ireland and of the

Soldiers point to the experience of Bosnia. The British were highly effective in a com-plex, "wider peace-keeping" operation, because they came equipped for war. When the peace implementation force arrived in December 1995, the deterrent effect of heavy artillery and tanks which were twice as big as any the local parties had seen was remarkable.

As the threat from Germany grew before 1914, the General Staff called for a continental system of conscription and an Army of half a million to fight in Europe. They did not get it; likely deployment of long-range fight first-division land battles Army's best hope, apart from but from 1907 they got a first-ter case.

A Warrior infantr fighting vehicle, designed for hig intensity war in Europe, which proved ideal fo fear that if the Army loses its ability to fight 'first division' battles, it will lose credibility for other kinds of operations Photograph: Christopher Bellamy

rate modern army - the British Expeditionary Force. At first, it was thought the BEF was as likely to go to Afghanistan as to Belgium, but from 1911 it became the core of Britain's continental commitment.

Britain has endeavoured to maintain an army of that kind ever since. Running Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps and providing an armoured division is about the minimum you need to do that. The problem is that, at the moment, there is no specific role for it. However, the Army insists it has to remain at first division level because once it is relegated, it would take decades to get back. The ability to fight a "high intensity war" is a genie in a bottle - to be magicked out in a dimly foreseen time of dire need. Furthermore, an Army full of first division players can play and win a second division game. The converse is untrue.

oing away with this abil-ity would have other dire consequences. Since the mid-Eighties, the Army has poured a great deal of intellectual effort into studying the operational level of war - the newly recognised level between tactics and strategy. Do away with your first division Army, and your study of the operational level, which has played a great part in making British soldiers think, becomes merely academic.

But can any British govern-ment justify paying for an increasingly expensive first division force merely as an insurance policy and as an engine room to generate excellence in other fields? Foreign secretaries often say that Britain punches above its weight in world affairs. One reason is the excellent military forces it continues to maintain. Still, if the other spending ministries win the inevitable cabinet battle over spending, the choice for the forces will have narrowed down to that between a balanced Navy, or a first-class, high-intensity warfare Army. Reduce either, and you reduce Britain's role on the world stage. But if reduce will must, given our present commitments, the Army has the bet-

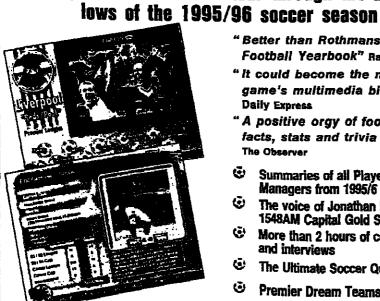
burren but it's

### CD-ROM Readers' Offer - £24.99

going to be easy.

Football's coming to your home THE ULTIMATE (2) SOCCER CD-ROM

An interactive guide packed with facts and fun and featuring a full multimedia tour through the highs and



PC Windows '95 and MAC compatible

"Better than Rothmans Football Yearbook" Radio 5 Live

- "It could become the national game's multimedia bible" Daily Express
- " A positive orgy of football facts, stats and trivia quizzes"
- Summaries of all Players and Managers from 1995/6 season
- The voice of Jonathan Pearce from 1548AM Capital Gold Sport More than 2 hours of commentary
- and interviews The Ultimate Soccer Quiz
- Premier Dream Teams
- Stacks of stats and much, much

16Nb RAM Double speed CD-ROM drive Available from Comet PC World Game Electronic Boutique and all good stockists

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 01483 268888 (Price includes P&P) Normal Delivery 14 days, but please allow 28 Days

### Jesus, the perfect anti-sleaze candidate

obody ever believes me when I tell them this, but I never switch on the news on television. Occasionally, I blunder into the news when looking for something else, and then leave immediately. I have not seen a complete news programme on TV for three or four years, although I did once stick with Channel 4 News for 10 minutes as it seemed a cut above any other news service I had ever seen. Not particularly good, just a lot better than BBC or ITV. "But you're a journalist!" people say. "How on earth

can you keep up with the news if you don't watch it?" Error. I am not a journalist. I write for a newspaper - not the same thing. And if I were a reporter, I still do not think I would watch the news. Watching the news does not tell you what is happening in the world. It tells you what people in TV companies think you will want to know. Sob stories, murder stories, trial stories, sound-bite stories, sleaze stories, genocide stories, old-people-in-Scotland-dying-of-disease stories, Cabinet-leak stories,

amazing how easy it is to do without what the TV people think is news.

As nothing much is happening in the election campaign - as nothing much ever really happens in election campaigns - this doesn't make a great difference to me, but it does mean that I have never seen John Major with his soapbox. I have heard and read about this box, but never seen him on it.

(In fact, I have very rarely seen Mr Major on TV. I think in all honesty that I have found myself more frequently watching comedians imitating Mr Major than I have seen the "real" thing. It is quite a common experience for many of us to see Rory Bremner doing his John Major more often than to see John Major doing his John Major. Am I alone in thinking that Rory Bremner does it slightly better? I am not saying that John Major does it particularly badly, just that Rory Bremner seems to put

more into it.) But whenever I read about John Major going out into the streets with his soapbox and



**Miles** Kington

addressing the masses, I find an image floating into my mind, and that is of Jesus going out into the streets and addressing the masses. I am not being irreverent or blasphemous here. Jesus is the most famous example of a man who went out into the streets and preached, and anyone who has done it since invites comparison.

The comparison is interesting. John Major and Jesus may both speak from soapboxes but the style is very different. You cannot imagine Jesus saying: "Turning now to imagine John Major saying: "Blessed are the poor." John Major talks about health a lot. Jesus didn't talk about health at all, but he did cure people. And so on.

Where John Major and

Jesus do have something in common, oddly enough, is in that they are both given to slagging off their opponents. John Major has no kind word for anyone outside the Tory party. Jesus said that anyone who was not with him was against him, which is a fairly clear sign that he too was against tactical voting. John Major warus us against ever trusting the Labour Party -Jesus did exactly the same for the Pharisees. And the Sadducees. He cried woe unto them in no uncertain fashion, just as John Major cries woe unto New Labour. Of course, Jesus cried woe unto a lot more people than John Major does - he also cried woe unto sinners, and publicans, and rich men, and ye of little faith, and taxgatherers - but the principle

is the same. Except, of course, that the sinners and publicans were not standing for election.

Jesus wasn't slagging off people who were trying to topple him from power. He wasn't in the power game at all. He was doing something quite different. He was actually urging people to behave better. It's quite extraordinary. Jesus actually had the nerve to get up on his soapbox and tell people to be better people. He made no promises. He did not say that if people believed in him taxes would fall and law and order would increase.

This is the big difference between a politician such as John Major and a preacher such as Jesus. John Major gets up on his soaphox and says: "Look at us! Aren't we terrific? Would you like to hear what we are going to do for you?"

Jesus, on the other hand, got up on his soapbox and said: "Look at yourselves! Aren't you awful? And what, may I ask, are you going to do about it?"

I have to say that I think Jesus would have made a perfect anti-sleaze candidate. also have to say that with that kind of message, he wouldn't have had a chance in hell of being elected.

المكذا من الأصل

### the commentators

### Rainswept, remote, barren and broke - but it's all theirs

Last week, the people of the Hebridean island of Eigg finally traped together the £1.5m needed to buy Eigg to run it as a community initiative with a conservation body. The writer has been recording the islanders' campaign for a book. An exclusive extract describes the last few days of their five-

Friday: It's two minutes past four and the phone on Appeal Direc-tor Maggie Pyffe's scrap-hardboard desk rings for perhaps the 500th time that week.

When she hears that the islanders' five years of struggle to gain ownership of Eigg is over, her first emotion is one of overwhelming relief rather than the rush of euphoria she had always expected. That will come tomorrow, and the next day and the day after that.

island? She pauses for a moment to roll a cigarette and share the news with her immediate family before starting the delicious task of phoning around her larger family - the other islanders - to ignite their lives with a moment they will remember for the

rest of their days. Over in Kildonan, Marie Carr, a mother of five, whose family have been living under threat of eviction for three years, finds herself dancing around the kitchen madly shouting at the ceiling "Oh my God, I just can't believe it" before dancing some more. She says later that she never quite dared accept how much she wanted to hear the news until she actually heard it - and that when it came, it "nearly made me go daft".

In his croft on the west side, 70-year-old Angus Mackinnon is with fellow crofter Davie Robertson when the news comes through. He goes out to his land and wonders what his people, who have lived on that spot since 1650, would have made of it. He says he feels them in every blade of grass and knows they would have been delighted. Up the hill, Ruari Kirk's 80th birthday party

is interrupted by the phone purring under a pile of coats. A dozen jellied-up children laugh uproariously as a flustered mother excavates the wretched thing and then tells them the news that will shape the rest of all their lives.

Then they all gather at Maggie's and party

Saturday: As blankets are thrown off for a late rise, many in the island community contemplate their future with a mixture of elation and concern. For two years, they have been working with experts on a business plan for the island so there. is little confusion as to what has to be done. It's the prospect of actually doing at that makes them want to go back to bed. ...

the Lairds Lodge is a muddle of rot, asbestos and damp. The only shop has gone out of business. The only tearoom has been condemned by the health authorities. All the 12 estate holiday cottages have been vacant for five years. The estate farm, stripped of its stock, animal quotas and staff, is returning to its native jungle state.

This web of disaster is now owned by a community with little but loose change and serviced by a transport system that is so inefficient that it can take a week to get a gallon of petrol delivered from the mainland.

To restore this island to its fullest potential will

Maxwell MacLeod

What will the 64 folk who live on Eigg do with their

many years of impaid work, and many of the islanders are already weary after their last struggle. Down at the pier house, the island handyman, "Bean" Keane, is gripped by a fierce pride as he tells me: "Sure it's going to be hard, but you know this morning I looked out at the mess on the pier, and for the first time in the seven years that I have lived here, I found myself thinking. I walk ways or down thinking – I really must go down and clear up that mess, even though it wasn't really my mess. I felt that the whole island was now my home and I feel a huge pride in it all the time. "If we can maintain that atti-

cost millions of pounds and

tude, then we have nothing to fear from our future."

Monday: The answer machine in Maggie's office has become jammed with messages. There are anthropologists wanting to study the islanders, artists wanting to paint them, filmmakers, weirdoes, the sick, sad and lonely all wanting to be part of a story of hope and community.

Maggie tells me that she heard that television programmes in Australia were interrupted by news bulletins announcing the buy-out; she laughs a rainbow of giggles at the daftness of it all and rolls another cigarette. Next week, the islanders will vote in leaders

to take the project forward and Maggie will start the thankless task of chasing up the £154,000 of pledges that must be bonoured if the islanders are to pay the asking price on the entry date of

She is confident they will make it. The future she tells me will be one of negotiation and work - and then more negotiation. It will be hard, but it will be worth it.

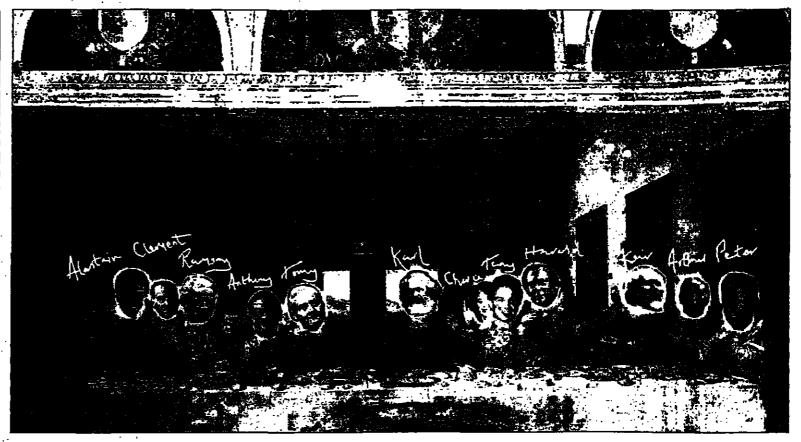
Tuesday: I write these last words sitting in my study at Fulnary in Morvern, where my forebears have sat for the last 200 years, each in his turn recording the cultural genocide of our people the Gaelic people. Each generation has seen the numbers of Gaelic speakers fail, so that while my great-great grandfather would have looked from this window and seen the neighbouring island of Mull with a Gaelic speaking popula-tion of more than 20,000, I gaze sadly on an island owned predominantly by non-resident foreigners where there are fewer than 60 Gaelic

It's my belief that the traditions of community and spirituality so deeply ingrained in all that is Gaelic have never been more needed by Britain than they are today and that we allow that culture to die at our peril.

On Eigg, we have seen a tiny group made up native Gaels contrive and execute a radical project based on those principles and advance the cause of Gaelic revivalism in a way not seen in the Highlands for decades. Other communities

may now follow their lead. On a hilltop, a Gael once famously pro-nounced against Lord Leverhume's grandiose proposals for change: "We have one question to ask him and that is this – will he give us

the land? Sixty-four Hebridean islanders now have their land. It will be interesting to see what the devil they do with it.



## The left's last supper

uperficially, at least, all is well in our copy of Das Kapital is now in a box in the artic, along with the works of Engels and Isaac Deutscher's biographies of Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky. But the works of Gramsci – definitely an OK author who "speaks to" the post-modern predicament still has pride of place on the distressed-look shelves. The signed photograph from Daniel Ortega still stares out from above the desk in the study. The framed CGT poster commemorating the occupation of Renault in '68 hangs on the

fresco-effect wall opposite. OK, the house in north London's Kentish Town may be a bit more bourgeois than the pad he had in Norwich when he was teaching at the University of East Anglia 25 years ago. The CD and the PC are both state of the art. The ANC victory has had its impact on the modest but well-stocked cellar: the household now consumes only South African wine. The car outside is a Saab Estate instead of the beloved 2CV with La Lotta Continua painted on one Venceremos on the other. But otherwise everything is pretty well in place chez History Man,

Except that a strange sense of foreboding hangs over the house. For it isn't just the Tories who face defeat, if Blair wins. Something else will be snuffed out, a flame that has flickered bravely throughout the 18 years since Margaret Thatcher came to power. Had the comrades ation of Dave Spart in the

History Man is reluctant to sup with New Labour, but he should look again at the menu, says Donald Macintyre

not, in 1979, struggled to reformulate the party as a truly left-wing socialist organisation Our boy had not played much direct part in that struggle; his own (very successful) academic career and his chairmanship of the campus

Natihe branch had taken up too much time. But he was conscious that while the long march back to true leftism had been halted, first by Kinnock and then by Smith and Blair, it had never been proved wrong. As long as the Tories continued to win elections it was still possible to dream that it, rather than the relentless dragging of Labour back to the centre, would in the end be the path to victory. But with a Blair win that dream dies. Suddenly History Man senses his own mortality, and shivers. In truth this fictional com-

to Malcolm Bradbury's 1975 anti-hero, is no doubt horribly unfair to the living, breathing intellectuals currently wringing their hands in print over Blair's alleged apostasy. But there are vestiges of it in most of them. These are most evident at one end of the handwringing spectrum: take, for example, Harold Pinter's unconsciously accurate imittax is a disgrace. Its treatment of dissent within the party is a disgrace. Its arse-licking of big business is a disgrace etc. etc. etc." (Those etcs, by the way.

are Mr Pinter's own.) Or there is the Oxford don Ross McKibbin, comparing Blair and Brown in the London Review of Books with those reviled old class traitors Ramsay MacDonald and Philip Snowden. Or the dinner party of metropolitan, middle-class 1992 Labour voters at Islington's Granita, convened for Sunday's Observer, at which for example - Elizabeth Wilson, professor of cultural studies at the University of North London, says she is switching to Lib Dem because: "[Blair] is a Macmillan of the Nineties except that he is more right headteacher who declares he doesn't trust Blair, and that "if the Tories get back it doesn't bother me two hoots".

At the more sophisticated end of the same spectrum, and to be taken much the most seriously, are Martin Jacques and Stuart Hall, writing in the same paper that the past 10 days have been "deeply depressing", and questioning whether New Labour will be "anything more

current issue of Red Pepper: than a crypto-Conservative "[Labour's] stated position on administration". Jacques and Hall are not History Men; and they aren't old Labour, either. At the weekend they explicitly endorsed Labour's decision to "opt for modernity" after John Smith's death. Which makes it all the more surprising that some of their complaints have a distinctly old Labour ring

about them. Take the "extraordinary display of gymnastics" over privatisation, for example. Labour handled this badly; but it was a tactical mess, not a philosophical one. Brown's bright young men had been thinking about an inventory of saleable public assets long before they were put under pressure by the Tories to explain their spending and borrowing plans.

Hall and Jacques are in anguish over Blair's decision to not to raise income tax to the party's members of the Scottish parliament. But in the real world, does such a commitment make it more or less likely that the Scottish people will vote for the tax-raising assembly which the intellectuals desire so deeply?

Most wavering electors, expecting next to nothing from politicians, would be impressed if the firm pledges made by

FAXING

COMPUTING

Labour - dismissed as "extreme modesty" by the disaffected intellectuals - were in fact delivered. A second misconception is to treat leadership in opposition as leadership in government. Jacques and Hall complain that Gordon Brown had refused to say whether the gap between rich and poor would have narrowed after five years of Labour in office. But

does wishing it make it happen? The intellectuals are right to identify the gap between rich and poor as critical. However, the time to complain about this is after five years, if Brown does fail to achieve it.

But who does it betray, to shrink from making this a cast-iron first-term pledge? Or to promise less than he hopes to deliver in government, as Margaret Thatcher did in 1979? Especially when the levers of redistribution - including tax increases other than income tax - are still in place?

At the Wirral I heard a defector to Labour from the Tories say thoughtfully that it would be impossible to judge Tony Blair until he had had five years in office. Asked in that same issue of Red Pepper the election, the journalist Paul Foot, no friend of Labour sellouts, said: "All you have to think about is the tremendous gloom on 9 April 1992, and contrast it with the sheer sadistic pleasure which every one of us will experience on the night of 1 May." One speaks for the electorate at large, the other for the political activist. Both tell us a larger truth, and put the Granita diners to shame.

INNOVATING

### At the end of the chapter

his year, 1997, now looks likely to be an important date in British political story, mainly because it will nave marked the disappearance of certain familiar features. It is probably accurate to say, for instance, that in 1997 socialism in this country finally came to an end after 100 years' endeavour. Likewise the Conservative interest in European integration has at last petered out, 26 years since Mr Heath received enthusiastic backing for the terms of Britain's entry into the Common Market at the party's annual conference. Moreover if Labour wins the election, we shall be debating an unusual aspect of the campaign - why, for the first time, a strong economy failed to benefit the incumbent party.

Of course the Labour Party has been becoming visibly less socialist and more managerial, even capitalist, since Mr Attlee's time, despite occasional lurches to the left. And Mr Blair has been pretty close to cutting Labour's last ties with its past for some time. All this is well known. None the less, the important moment is when things hinted at, or half said, or slightly veiled, are sud-

denly made absolutely plain. This is why I take Mr Blair's remarks last week on privatisa-tion to be historic: "Where social justice, greater equality there is no overriding reason for preferring the public provision of goods and services, particularly where those services operate in a competitive market, then the presumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector, with marset forces being fully encourged to operate. There should be no dogmatic belief that the private sector should do every-thing, or that the public sector



**Andreas** Whittam Smith

Absence of familiar landmarks makes this the eerie election

should do everything." This statement contains not the slightest element of socialist language, socialist thinking or socialist assumptions. Classic and security by abolishing or limiting private enterprise and private ownership of the means of production; and in place of the market it would substitute a central planning body. Every successive leader of the Labour Party, from Keir Hardie in Queen Victoria's reign up to an advertising slogan; it should with the electorate? Because be the official name of the low inflation also means relentparty.

Likewise, the Conservative

Party's galloping disenchant-ment with European integraline news without quite reaching the point of no return until now. The significant development is the nature of the messages or statements of principle which Conservative candidates are making to their electors. If, as is commonly estimated, as many as 150 or so sitting members are planning to give a personal commitment in their individual manifestos that they would vote against joining a European single currency, then Mr Major's tortured formulations, which leave open a slim possibility of participating, become irrelevant. The Prime Minister would have been left behind by

his party. The Europhobes have redefined Conservative policy within a day or two of the publication of the party's official policy, released as they are from the disciplines of the House of Commons and thinking that the party is going to lose the election anyway. This is a fact on the ground of some historic importance.

More speculative are the other ways in which 1997 may prove to be a turning point. The relationship between the economic cycle and the political cycle appears to have changed. The combination of economic growth, falling unemployment, low inflation and balance-ofpayments strength is the most ourable at any election since the 1950s. And this is a genuine and including John Smith, would have gaped at Mr Blair's summary of policy. The phrase "New Labour" was conceived as

less cost-cutting in the public services and in private enter-prise to the extent that pobody. from boss to floor cleaner, feels safe in his or her job. Job security has vanished. Moreover there appears to be no difference between the economic policies of the two main parties. In a strange way, therefore

the factor hitherto thought most important in any election struggle, the management of the economy, has somehow been neutralised. Famously Bill Clinton had a sign on his desk during his first presidential campaign with the words "It's the economy, stupid!" to keep him focused on what really matters. It is hard to think what reminders Mr Major and Mr Blair should make for

This is why the 1997 general election is so eerie. Some familiar landmarks have gone, but in their place are just empty spaces. New Labour does not provide a new vision to replace the beliefs it has jettisoned. The notion of a "radical centre" carries no meaning, because in everyday parlance the two words contradict each other, it is not a pleasing paradox.

For their part the Tories can

provide only a negative account of Conservative policy towards Europe - things they would not countenance rather than a description of a constructive relationship.

For its breaks with the past, the 1997 election is a significant event and will be discussed in the political histories of the United Kingdom in the late 20th century. But the accounts will be placed at the end of a chapter rather than at the

### A column? You've a ghost of a chance

Dear Fergie,

hear that the New York Times syndication department is giving you £100,000 a year for a weekly column hich they are to circulate to 2,000 newspapers around the world, and I wondered if you needed a bit of a hand with it? With all your other activities

flogging fruit juice, and slim-

ming for cash - not to mention your lucrative contract with Paris Match to do six "major interviews" a year, i thought a ghostwriter might be in order.

I gather your first column is to be circulated today and f look forward to seeing your début runthe first few columns are not

too difficult - you can let loose a hobby horse for a quick canter around a 650-word course. But that can pretty swiftly become tiresome, and you end up resorting to moaning about the delays and cancellations on South West Trains or moving on to the portentous stuff
- like why-oh-why does Newt Gingrich keep saying "Let's bomb Iran" - and I suspect the New York Times already has its

The real problem for you is that you won't be able to resort to the staple "I've-got-thebuilders-in" stuff because of the undertaking you had to give to the Queen that your scribblings won't touch on anything about royal home life.

fair share of that.

That rules out revelations on why you needed such a huge pantechnicon to move back into the guest room at Southfork, Wind-SOT. It will also cramp your style

when it comes to hitting back at all those *creepy* tabloid backs with their obsession about whether you're sleeping with your ex again and, if not, what some future girlfriend of Andrew might have to say about

the domestic arrangement. Hope you like the huge and creepy - I noticed from flicking through your autobiog My Story that you're partial to the odd burst of italics. Hope you feel that I've got the measure of your rather jaunn

style 100, though "Yes" I'll chuck in a few more adjectives per paragraph and give the metaphors a bit of a stir.

No, what I sug-gest is some really know, ripostes to those surveys which name you as the woman men would least like to have tea with, after Paula Yates. Or those press reports at the New Year that the Austrian build-

ing magnate Richard Lugner had lowered the tone at the Vienna Opera Ball by paying you a million schillings to be his partner. You should point out that last year he had Grace Jones, who scandalised Austrian society by stripping in the presidential box and then tak-

ing Lugner off to a gay gathering. After which, this year the tone could surely only have gone up. If you're interested, let me know and I'll send you a sample

by return. Do you think 20 per cent would be fair? Trot on, old girl. (Do you really say things like that?)

Paul Vallely

The Canon MultiPASS" can print, <sup>can</sup> fax, <sup>can</sup> copy, can scan. The new MultiPASS™C30 and MultiPASS™ 10 from

Canon, They'll meet your

every business require-

ment. Compact, and so YOU AND

CANON CAN. easy to use. Just call

Canon

freephone 0500 550 111.

ters

and a start

# business & city

## Chancellor dines on a perfect cocktail of statistics

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

A week of key economic statistics kicked off yesterday with figures sure to please Kenneth Clarke, with news that inflation at the factory gate fell last month to its lowest for more than a decade. Separate survey results showed that high street sales grew at a slower pace in March. This encouraging start will be

show a further big drop in the employment benefit, lowerthan-forecast government borrowing last financial year. and unchanged headline inflation. The cocktail could scarcely have turned out better for the Chancellor so close to the elec-

tion date.
"Inflation can keep falling this year," said Jonathan Loynes,

morrow and Thursday likely to kets. He predicted that only a missed their target of underly-show a further big drop in the small post-election increase in in-number of people claiming un-terest rates would be necessary.

But other City economists stuck to the view that inflationary pressures would pick up later this year because of the strength of the economy outside manufacturing. There is grow-ing evidence of overheating in the service sector," said Richard lley at Hoare Govett.

The Conservatives are cerfollowed by other statistics to- UK economist at HSBC Mar- tainly in danger of having

the parliament, although the April figure will not be published until after the election.

get rate later this year. Yesterday's figures showed that inflation further back in the pipeline, in prices paid by man-ufacturers for materials and charged at the factory gate,

inflation to fall below the tar-

pound in recent months has contributed to the decline.

Manufacturers' output prices climbed by only I per cent in the year to March, while "core" prices, excluding food, drink, tobacco and petroleum, were only 0.5 per cent higher year on

Input prices declined 0.5 per cent during March, taking their annual rate of decline from

had fallen to the lowest since the minus 6.6 per cent to minus 7.6 mid-1980s. The strength of the per cent. This was the biggest annual rate of decline in the cost of materials since oil prices dived in the mid-1980s, and was also driven by cheaper oil. Food and metals prices increased.

sharply last month. There is very little inflation in the pipeline in manufacturing, said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB. "The worry will be inflation in the

showed the annual growth in the value of sales on the high street on a like-for-like basis slipping to 3.7 per cent in March, the lowest since last April.

Unadjusted sales growth declined from 7.9 per cent to 7.1

held up reasonably well, some sectors may have been adversely affected by uncertainty associ-

A separate survey from the ated with the election, "said An-British Retail Consortium drew Higginson, chairman of drew Higginson, chairman of the BRC's economic affairs

He said inflation was low in the retail sector, with especial ly noticeable downward pro sure on food prices.

Furniture sales fell victim to pre-election uncertainty, especially big-ticket items. But good weather and the early Easter holiday had led to especially buoyant DIY sales.

## Base rate fears fuelled by £6bn windfall

Michael Harrison and Clifford German

More than £6bn is set to flood into the economy over the summer months through building so-ciety share windfalls, boosting consumer spending and putting fresh upward pressure on inter-

This emerged yesterday as the Alliance and Leicester disclosed that 27.5 per cent of the shares being given away to savers and borrowers in next week's £2.3bn flotation are being cashed in im-

If similar numbers of shares in the other floating mutual societies are sold instantly then it will free up £6.3bn of spending power - the eqivalent of 3p off income tax, 0.8 per cent on GDP and 1.2 per cent on annual consumer spending.

The impact on the economy could be significantly greater if more of the new building society shareholders decide to cash in through the course of the year - adding dramatically to growth and fuelling inflation.

The 27.5 per cent of A&L shareholders cashing in is higher than most City analysts had forecast. A study by Mori for the investment bank Salomon Brothers in February estimated that only 12 per cent - one in cight - would sell shares immediately with a further 12 per cent

selling shares later in the year. The Bank of England, meanwhile, warned in its February Inflation Report that if more than 10 per cent of the windfall was spent in the first year it would increase the upside risks on

growth and inflation. The A&L flotation, together

with the forthcoming conversions will be available to meet demand of the Halifax, the Norwich from institutional investors by Union, the Woolwich, and the Bank of Ireland's takeover of the Bristol and West will produce a efit 19 million people - one

third of the adult population. Even if half the windfall is saved it will still amount to a massive boost to the economy. Michael Saunders of Salomons.

 ← The thing to bear in mind is that only half of those who sell their shares will

spend the cash 9

said: "This is a bigger figure than we had forecast. The key will be whether a lot more shares are sold and what the impact on spending will be. The thing to bear in mind is that of those people who sell their shares, only half will spend the money. The rest will be put into Tessas or PEPsor National Savings or used to pay off debt or they may even reinvest it in other mutual societies

The proportion of A&L shares being cashed in immediately suggests that 640,000 of its 2.4m members are baling out. They will be left with around £650m of cash burning a hole in their pockets.

in the hope of cashing in again.

It means around 160m shares

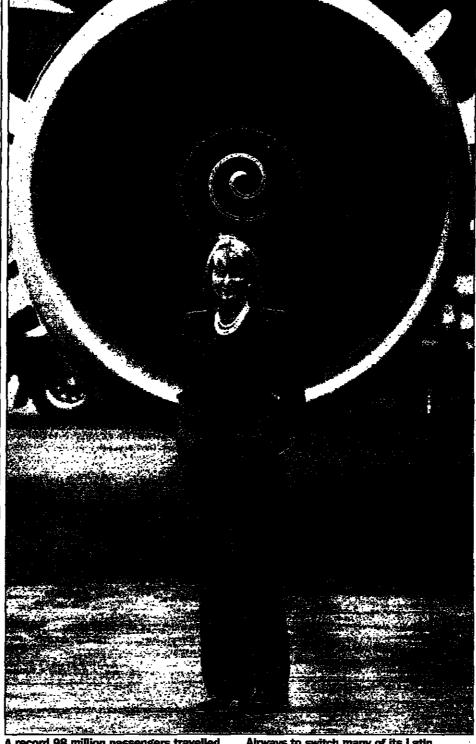
from institutional investors by the time trading in the shares Northern Rock together with the starts on Monday. With the market as whole sliding the chances of the shares trading windfall of about £23bn and ben- above 500p next week are

When the Abbey National converted to a bank in 1989 only a quarter of its sharehgolders balewd out in the first year. Roughly 25 per cent of National & Provincial members have also sold their shares in the nine months since their society was taken over by Abbey National last summer.

A&L points out that it has been a society for small savers, for whom a four-figure windfall was maybe too tempting to keep. More than 70 per cent of its members had less than £2,000 on deposit, which is why it decided to go for a flat 250 share allocation rather than a graduated pay-out. The wording of its information leaflets sent to members was specifically designed to be evenhanded but this may also have made it much easier to choose to

But uncertainty over the future trend of interest rates and share prices and the background of the election might have persuaded some members to take the cash against the advice of the City.

The higher than expected figure of sales means there is less risk of a disorderly market developing as institutions struggle for shares. Tracker funds will expect to hold up to 15 per cent of the shares eventually and other institutional investors to hold up to half. But A&L is not expected to join the FTSE100 index unBAA on a high as passenger traffic sets records



A record 98 million passengers travelled through BAA's seven airports last year -4.6 per cent up on 1995 - the group announced yesterday. One of the driving forces behind the increase in traffic was a 7 per cent growth in passenger numbers at Gatwick, where Janis Kong (pictured above) is managing director. The increase to 24.6 million passengers was due in large part to the decision by British

Airways to switch many of its Latin American and African flights from Heathrow to Gatwick. Stansted increase passenger numbers by 19 per cent to 4.9 million while Heathrow was up 2.4 per cent at just over 56 million. The biggest growth was in the UK-freland market where traffic levels rose 11 per cent to

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

### Ex-Camas boss gets £400,000 in wake of merger

City Editor

Alan Shearer, the building materials executive, not his better-known footballing namesake, will receive compensation of around £400,000 after the proposed merger of Camas and Bardon to create Britain's fifth-

largest aggregates producer. Chief executive of Camas, and only two years away from his planned retirement, Mr Shearer lost out to Bardon's Peter Tom in the competition to head up the enlarged group, Aggregate Industries

Following the merger, which due to tax considerations is being packaged as an all-share takeover of Camas by Bar-don, Aggregate will join Tar-mac, Hanson, RMC and Redland in the fast-consolidating first division of UK stone and concrete producers. The group will have sales of more than £650m and consented reserves of 2.2 billion

It is thought the two com-panies have been in discussions for at least a year but failure to satisfy the management aspirations of Mr Tom and Mr Shearer held up negotiations until now. Mr Shearer was employed by Camas on a twoyear contract paying him just over £200,000 a year.

According to Mr Tom, cost savings of £10m a year will be achieved, partly by shutting both companies' head offices and re-opening a single headquarters near Warwick. The new site was chosen as a central location for the enlarged group's quarries which stretch from Camas's traditional West Country heartland to Bardon's

strong presence in Scotland. The companies also have sizeable operations in the US, where Camas is strong in the mid-western cities of Denver and further north in Boston.

cent of its sales in the US and 55 per cent in the UK and mainland Europe.

Trading

Under the terms of the offer, Camas shareholders will receive two Bardon shares for each Camas share they hold. Yesterday Bardon's shares closed 3p higher at 44.5p, push-ing Camas's shares 9.5p higher to 93.5p.

Last year Bardon made pre-tax profits of £23.4m from sales of £317.6m while Camas re-ported profits of £22.8m from slightly higher turnover of £338.6m, thanks to a different mix of business which included a higher proportion of lower margin concrete building ma-terials. Bardon ended the year with gearing of 50 per cent against Camas's 28 per cent.

Analysts welcomed the deal, which they said had been timed at the bottom of the UK ag-



gregates cycle. The enlarged group will control two superquarries in Leicestershire which environmental concerns mean are unlikely to be repeatable. and Minneapolis and Bardon That, together with rising dea major player on the east mand after last year's 10 per coast, around Washington DC cent fall in volumes, should enmand after last year's 10 per sure recent price rises are held. Following the merger, Aggre-gate will make about 45 per Investment column, nag Investment column, page 22

### GUS goes on \$246m US shopping spree



acquisition in six months

City Correspondent

Great Universal Stores, the mail order group, has con-solidated its position in the American information services industry with its second big deal

GUS, headed by Lord Wolf-son, is paying \$246m (£152m) for Direct Marketing Technol-ogy, an Illinois-based provider of direct marketing services to the US mail order catalogue in-The deal follows the £1bn

acquisition of Experian, another US database group in November, GUS' first significant deal in 30 years. Eric Barnes, deputy chairman

3460.64 2848.77 1,60†

Source: FT Information

sector in the foreseeable future It manages more than 200 hinting instead that something in direct mail order was more likely. However, he added that GUS was "not looking at anything at the moment".

The Direct Technology deal represents another significant step for GUS as it seeks to establish itself as a global force in the rapidly growing market of database services. As the huge success of supermarket loyalty cards has demonstrated in the UK, companies which successfully build detailed profiles of their customers can use the information to target promotions more effectively while growing sales and in-

creasing loyalty.
Direct Tech specialises in database marketing, list processing, and analytical services.

INTEREST RATES

client databases. Last year it targeted 10 billion pieces of advertising mail, representing 13 per cent of all advertising mail

distributed in the US. Mr Barnes said the Direct Tech business would complement Experian as it served the catalogue industry while Experian's strength was in financial services such as credit

Though GUS denies they are "big brother" operations, companies such as CCN, its UK information services company, and Experian have huge databases of customer information such as credit worthiness and spending habits and bad debt records. GUS is paying \$222.5m for the equity of Direct Tech as well

Depending on its performance could make further cash payments of \$52.5m. Mr Barnes said the deal

formed part of the GUS strategy of building up an informa-tion services business in the US to complement its CCN division in the UK. He said global clients were increasingly seek-ing a "one-stop shop" for their database marketing needs. Direct Tech employs 570 and

last year it recorded profits of \$15m on sales of \$65m. GUS said that the two founders of Direct Tech, Tom Newkirk and Scot Thomas, would remain. Some cost reductions might come from merging the marketing division with Experian.

### Branson jets into executive market

Michael Harrison

Richard Branson is entering the executive jet business in part-nership with one of the team who was to have joined the Virgin chairman in his attempt to circumnavigate the globe by balloon. Virgin and the McCarthy Corporation, a London-based leisure and technology investment group, are today expect-ed to announce the formation

of Virgin Executive Aviation. The new company will be owned 50:50 and will initially have two executive jets based at Heathrow and a fleet of eight helicopters based at Wycombe Air Park in Buckinghamshire: It has also acquired the London Air Ambulance helicopter.

The intention is to offer an executive jet service to Virgin Atlantic customers flying Upper

CURRENCIES

Class into Heathrow and launched this summer with one Gatwick and then needing to get HS 125-800 jet and one Cessna elsewhere fast.

The helicopter fleet, formerly owned by McCarthy Corporation but being renamed Virgin Helicopters, will be used to ferry passengers between London's Battersea heliport and Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted and for special charters.

McCarthy Corporation has a stock market listing in Canada and is chaired by the brothers Rory and Tim McCarthy. Rory, who holds the world freefall parachute record, was to have flown with Mr Branson on his round-the-world balloon attempt but was forced to drop out at the last minute because

Initial investment in Virgin Executive Aviation will be £10m. The executive jet service will be Service.

Citation V jet which have a cruising speed of 410 knots. They can carry 8-10 passengers and will have enough range to fly from London to Moscow or Marrakech. The jets will fly in Virgin colours and have dedicated ligin cabin crews.

grande Berge Louis Marie

McCarthy Corporation has investments ranging from the Smolensky chain of restaurants and Café Spice to Victory Corporation, a cosmetics and cusual wear group floating on the AIM market shortly, and a telecoms company TCS. It also owns 75 per cent of Lindstrand Balloons.

Rory McCarthy, chairman of McCarthy Corporation, said the aim was to expand the business swiftly to exploit the reputation of Virgin's Upper Class

#### age further acquisitions in this STOCK MARKETS Bay's change Change(%) 1996/97 High 1996/97 Low York (%) FTSE 100 FTSE 250 FTSE 350 FT AN Share 6368.01 -23.68 17692.47 -154.51

Short Sterning"	<b>OV</b> WEARON		ig iong nob		1/3			t, un		表/ 1		
177 678 678 678 678 678 678 678 678 678 6	77											
oney Market Rates		<b></b>			\ ·				Dollar	. ` .		
•	iter   Nedico Ro		Long Rosel	(26) Nor Age	Pome	Yesterlar	Charge -	Year Age	- HOMAI	Vesteracy	ورون	ь
K 6.06 6.9	94 7.64	8.07	7.74	8.16	\$ (London)			1.5113	(London) 3		+0.09	_
5 5.63 6.3	28 6.97	6.54	7.17	6.84	\$ (N York)‡				E (N York)		-0.04	
pgn 0.53 0.1	59 2.18	1.96			DM (Londor				· DM (Londo		-0.08pt	
armany 3,22 3.		6,48	6.73	·	# (Lendon)				* (Loadon)		+Y0.2	100
enchart indes					£ Index			83.6	\$ Index		+0.1	
	MAIN PRIC	E CHANGES					(	THER IN	DICATORS			
SES Price (s)	Games (g) Champelli	Falls	Price (g) Clas			Testering	Day's ring	. Kar <i>le</i> o		وابدا ، وأحا	t Tribes	
Liaboratories 192.5	15 8.5	Biocompat int	1360	60 42	Oil Brent S	18.16	+0.0B	21.75	RPI 15	5.0 27	150.9	10
La Rus 558,5	29.5 5.6	Scotia Hidgs		5 4.2	Gold \$	346,75	+0.7	394.15		9.7+2.6pc	107.0	쁥
B Sports 421,5	21.5 5.4	BPB		3.5 4,2	Gold £	213.68	±0.73	260.80	Base Rates	- 6.00pc	6.75	<u>لنک</u>
									. — —	<u>`</u>		_

### Former BTR chief paid £1m bonanza

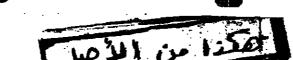
BTR paid former chief executive cluded "sums to discharge con-Alan Jackson almost £1m in tractual obligations" at the end 1996, a year in which he served as an executive director for only three months, the company's profits fell by 13 per cent, the dividend was cut by 35 per cent and its shares underperformed the market by more than 20 per cent.

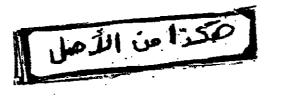
writes Tom Stevenson. The company's annual report, which was sent to shareholders yesterday, shows a total remuneration of £949,116 for Mr Jackson, a 40 per cent increase on his salary in 1995, his last year as chief executive of the industrial group. The payment in-

of his contract.

A spokesman said those obligations were "in connection with untaken long-service leave under the state of Victoria employment legislation, together with holiday untaken and paid in lieu". Mr Jackson, an Australian, has left BTR.

His end-of-career bonanza is certain to provoke questions at BTR's annual meeting on # May, coming at the end of a four-year period in which BTR's shares have fallen from 407p to last night's close of 249p.





imas bo

## Strong pound is just a temporary phenomenon

tend to be held loudly and simultaneously by the very same commentators. One is that the fundamental vigour of the British economy means the pound is on the up and up, and will climb even further once the uncer-

tainty about the election is out of the way and we have a Labour chancellor starting to raise interest rates The other view is that the strong pound will inflict severe damage on manufacturing industry and the parts of the service sector exposed to international trade, just as it did in the early 1980s and 90s. Therefore there is no urgent need to increase interest rates because lower

exports will slow growth. The inconsistency is in arguing that the causality can go in both directions simultaneously. Either the fundamental strength of the economy can and should lead to a sustainably higher exchange rate, or a higher exchange rate can and will damage the economy's strength, but not both at the same time. Those people who are pro-pounding both points of view need lessons in ogic, never mind economics.

Of the two, the latter case seems the more plausible. It may well be, as John Major and Kenneth Clarke keep insisting, that Britain is not just booming but on a fundamentally bet-ter economic path. However, the evidence for this is far from conclusive and certainly not strong enough for the financial markets to have marked up sterling by 14 per cent in six months. More likely the strong pound is due

There are two common and inconsistent views about the strong pound, and they up hitting exports and slowing down the economy. Surveys suggest export orders are already weaker, even though domestic demand is still

offsetting the impact on output. If this is the case, the pound's strength will probably be a temporary phenomenon – a simple reflection of the likelihood of higher interest rates thanks to the stage of the business cycle the UK, like the US, has reached. There's also another reason why sterling will probably begin to fall back again at some stage in the next six months; the strong possibility of a Labour government. This is not because markets necessarily have anything to fear from Labour, but because Labour will almost certainly try and talk down the economy once it gets into office. Human nature dictates that every newcomer to a job shouts long and hard about the unholy mess he's inherited from his predecessor. Labour has already promised a financial audit once it gets into power and is unlikely to defer from this time-honoured habit. Unfortunately markets have an unnerving habit of believ ing the politicians when they say that in truth the economy is in a dreadful state.

#### BT should clear its final hurdle

Wembley, the scene of many a sporting triumph, is a fitting location for British Telecom's historic shareholders' meeting to-

£12.5bn deal, a takeover in all but name, is nothing if not grand in scale. It is unlikely that more than a few hundred of the 2.3 million BT small investors will turn up this morning, given that a yes vote is a certainty, but the occasion is no less momentous for the

predictability of the outcome. With today's egm over, there is only one significant hurdle left – US regulators. But despite the best efforts of AT&T to disrupt the process, BT would hardly have set out on the merger path if it wasn't given some kind of private assurance of success, and though clearance may be taking longer

than anticipated, it must surely come. Assured of success as it no doubt is, BT has none the less found the merger a sur-prisingly tough proposition to sell to the City. Why was it necessary to buy MCI outright, many wondered, when the existing Concert alliance in the international business mar ket seemed to be outperforming similar offerings from Sprint and AT&T? Why, they also asked, was it necessary to pay over the odds to take over MCL, the biggest deal in

UK corporate history?
Though BT can convincingly talk of the £1.5bn worth of synergies and savings from the merger, the real truth is less palatable to all those institutional bean counters who have become used to BT's guaranteed dividends. The only realistic path open to BT to compete fully in the fast-growing global telecoms market was to take full control of

day to approve its merger with MCL For the MCI. If Messers Vallance and Bonfield delayed too long, a rival group would swoop in. The reasoning is basically defensive. BT has to attack the global business market because the alternative is to sit back and watch its market share in the UK steadily eroded by the competition.

What concerns shareholders, who hate incertainty, is that with the creation of Concert plc, the BT they knew so well will gradually disappear. The merger is, genuinely, a journey into the unknown. But it is a necessary and inevitable one.

#### Regan 'bid' looks doomed to fail

Tith the Co-operative Wholesale Soci-With the Co-operative wire sale some out in the ety's poor profit figures now out in the open, the next move in this spell-binding saga must surely come from Andrew Regan. Having parked the Lanica Trust tanks on the Coop's lawn he must now open fire, or be forced into ragged retreat.

If he does, then things could start to get really interesting and all that has passed up to now will count only as a "phoney war".

The two sides already have three PR advisers each and are already accusing each other of "black propaganda". Imagine the high jinks they will perform if he goes ahead. We do not yet know the level, if any, of Mr Regan's support among the Co-op's

Falkland Islands, where it has a single store, The Co-op says it knows of no support and that its board members all put their hands up dutifully at a meeting last week to sup-port the 130-year-old movement. But we must assume that the 31-year-old entrepreneur has some backing or he would not have

let his "bid" get this far.

Word is that he may have the backing of
10 regional societies – enough to call a special meeting. He may also have sympathisers at board level too. If there are rehels in the ranks, Mr Melmoth either does not know

about them or isn't telling.

But even if the boy Regan does garner enough support to force a special meeting or force the board to consider the offer, he looks doomed to failure. Why should the CWS sell some if its most profitable businesses to a financier whose real interest is not in running them but in selling them on at a profit? If the board is to sell some of its interests at all, then surely it should itself seek a buyer willing to pay a strategic premium, and keep the upside Mr Regan wants for himself. It just doesn't make sense to sell to Lanica. Whatever happens, Mr Regan will have played a key role in the Co-op's history. As vesterday's poor profits show, the Co-op movement desperately needs to buck up its ideas if it is to fight its corner in increasingly competitive markets. Mr Regan may have galvanised the movement into action. The pity of it for him is be is unlikely to see a penny for his trouble. bers which stretch from Brixham to the

## **Trading** profits at Co-op fall 21 per cent

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Either the

fundamental strength

of the economy can

and should lead to a

sustainably higher

exchange rate, or a

higher exchange rate

can and will damage

strength, but not both

the economy's

at the same time'

The chief executive of the Cooperative Wholesale Society launched a fierce attack on Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust yesterday as he announced a sharp fall in profits at the

Graham Melmoth, who became chief executive in November, described Mr Regan as "an irrelevance" who "does not stand a bope" of buying parts of the CWS's non-lood businesses.
"It is a South Sea Bubble

lapse into a share ramp," Mr
Melmoth said.

On the day of us over the past nine or ten
years."

He stressed that the CWS asset-stripping middleman". would have to improve its performance and that the dis-

Par Sheart (Si

court alrest 614%

white mar,

Im bonaga

currently had no businesses up or sale and if some were to be old for strategic reasons in the future then they would be sold to maximise value, not to an

He admitted that the CWS

parate parts of the movement would have to move closer to-

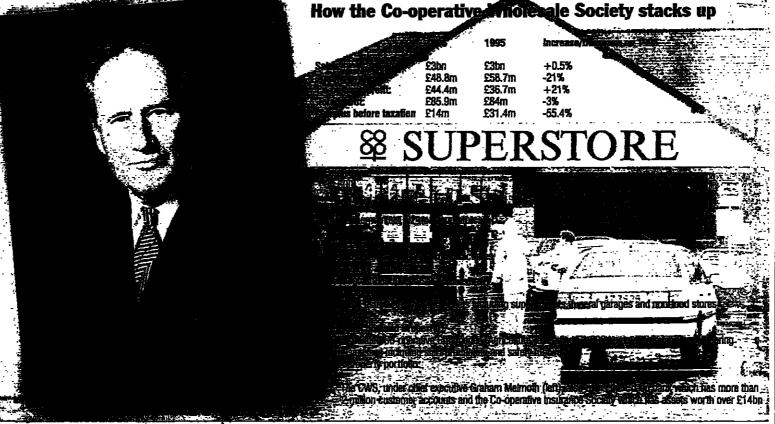
But he said the society had the backing of the 30-strong board and its 300 members. However, he said he could not rule out the possibility that Mr Regan might have some support from the mem-

Walter Douglas, secretary of Airth Co-operative, which has one village shop between Falkirk and Stirling, voiced his support for the Co-op yesterday. We would faily support the CWS and vote against puff ... and I am not going to Andrew Regan," he said. "The came as the CWS reports the Co-op movement col- CWS has been very supportive poor profits for last year.

> years." The view from the Deeside Farmers Co-op was rather different. "I don't know anything about it," a spokesman said. "We're just a farmers' buying

The Faiklands Islands Cooperative could not be con-

Mr Melmoth's comments staff participation improved.



came as the CWS reported Stripping out the contribu-tion from the Co-op bank, which reported its results ear-

lier this month, trading profits were 21 per cent lower at £41.5m. The retained surplus was halved from £31m in 1995 to just £14m last year. Mr Melmoth said a strategy

review was under way which would see costs reduced and

He also said that the Co-op "divi", which has been reintroduced in Northern Ireland and parts of Scotland, might be rolled out across the country. Though he did not earmark

ses that might be sold, he admitted that the garages and opticians business would be reviewed. It also seems likely that some of the engineering businesses such as a its at the food operation. This safety footwear manufacturer was largely due to difficult will be regarded as non-core. trading in Scotland where funeral directors and travel

operation, which is facing tough competition from the big supermarkets, would be sold: "There's no way we can get out of food retailing. It's a core part of the Co-op role." The main reason for the

decline in profits last year was a 14 per cent decline in prof-

gestions that the food retailing Low is thought to have increased competition. Though some critics have

said that the Co-op supermarkets may be losing money, the CWS said yesterday that its stores were trading profitably. However, it is clear that some superstores are struggling and it is possible some will be sold. Profits at the specialist retail

cent up at £12.8m. Group sales were flat at £3bn.

Mr Melmoth said his priority was mainstream retailing and he would target the CWS's 700 food and non-food stores

to improve their performance. Lanica Trust yesterday restricted itself to a brief comment on the CWS figures. "Overall it makes a diabolical businesses, which include the return on a huge amount of

\$14bn (£8.6bn), accounting for

40 per cent of Latin America's

the chairman of Portugal Tele-

com, Francisco Murteira Nabo.

is to hold talks next week with

Juan Villalonga, head of Tele-

fonica. The move would po-

tentially bring BT closer to

clinching a deal with the Span-

Industry sources suggested

Telefonica could announce a

Separately, it emerged that

total phones market.

ish carrier.

#### De La Rue to **cut 400** jobs

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent** 

De La Rue, one of the world's largest banknote printing groups, vesterday moved to slash costs in its main security printing: arm with a restructuring programme involving the loss of a possible 400 jobs, a quarter of the division's workforce.

The announcement is the company's latest response to increasing international competition in the congested banknote and cheque-printing market, where profit margins have

plunged over the past two years. The news provided some welcome relief for long-suffering investors who have seen the value of De La Rue shares halve since 1995 after the company made three profits warnings in 15 months. The problems also stemmed from the £680m takeover of banknote paper maker Portals, a deal widely considered by analysts to be overpriced. Shares in the group recovered 29.5p to 558.5p yesterday, though they remain far off their peak of £10.50.

The reorganisation will concentrate manufacturing on three of De La Rue's four security printing sites in the UK following its purchase of Lonrho's postage stamp printing business, Harrison & Sons, in February. Factories will move from combining several different product lines to fewer tasks. The group's plant at High Wycombe, which De La Rue inherited from Lonrho, is to be refurbished while its Dunstable site will close. Banknote production will move from High Wycombe to Gateshead, while travellers' cheque making will switch to High Wycombe.

The company said the cuts would take place over six months and would cost £15m Alan Blundell, director of the security print operation, said the move represented "decisive ac-

Representatives from the printing workers' union, the GPMU, are to be consulted about the job losses, which come out the security printing division's workforce of 1.685.

#### IN BRIEF

#### Economic recovery firms in Japan

Yasuo Matsushita, governor of the Bank of Japan, said the "economic recovery is becoming firmer" due to an increase in domestic demand, which had started to stimulate higher production and wages growth. "Favourable moves among demand, production and wages have started to work gradually, and the economic recovery is becoming firmer," he said.

Mr Matsushita said that, while the recent Tankan survey con-

irmed a lack of private sector confidence about the emergence of a strong recovery, "we should not be too pessimistic". He said the consumption tax hike was likely to have only a temporary impact on the recovery and was unlikely to undermine the move towards a self-sustained recovery.

#### ScottishPower sells computer business

ScottishPower has sold the Southern Water computer services business for £10.8m to ICL Group in the first step in a phased restructuring designed to release cash and improve profitability following the acquisition of Southern Water last year. The sale agreement includes a three-year contract with CFM to provide mainframe computer services to Southern Water.

#### Apple closes research centre

Apple Computer has closed its research and development centre in Singapore, with 101 redundancies affecting researchers and programmers. After these redundancies, Apple would employ 873 people in Singapore, the company said. The restructuring in Singapore is part of a move to regroup all R&D operations at the company's headquarters in Cupertino, Cali-

#### Profits double at General Motors

General Motors said its first-quarter profit more than doubled, its best quarterly performance in more than a decade, as it boosted US car and truck production following the strikes last year. Profits from continuing operations rose from \$300m (£493m) to \$1.80n. Revenue rose to \$42.3bn from \$39.2bn. In the same quarter last year, a 17-day strike at two Ohio brake plants paralysed the car maker's North American production and sharply reduced

#### £10m fund for small businesses

A £10m fund is to provide equity investment of between £100,000 and £600,000 for up to 30 small and medium-sized businesses in Greater Manchester, parts of Lancashire and Cheshire. The United Utilities Venture Fund is to be jointly financed by the private and public sectors and the European Community. United Utilities, the water, electricity, gas and telecoms utility, is pro-

Other backers include the European Regional Development Fund and the Co-operative Bank. Innvotec, the venture capital investment fund specialists, are to manage the fund. The fund will target enterprises with a technology component which are seeking support for expansion.

### BT planning £45m stake in Portugal

#### Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

British Telecom has expanded its network of European alliances, yesterday announcing moves to buy a stake in Portugal Telecom, the country's main phone group. It will create an alliance that

BT hopes could unlock opportunities in the fast-growing Brazilian phone market, the largest in Latin America. The aunouncement also appeared to move BT closer to an even bigger goal of prizing Telefonica of Spain away from its existing

David Usborne

Airbus Industrie is facing a

further setback in the North

American market following re-

ports yesterday that Continen-

tal Airlines was negotiating to

place all its future aircraft pur-

chase contracts with Boeing. Such an agreement would fol-

low hard on the heels of simi-

lar exclusive purchasing deals

signed by Boeing with big US

Gordon Bethune, the chief

carriers Delta and American.

executive officer of Continen-

tal, was reported yesterday to

have asked Boeing to make the

airline an offer on the basis of

an exclusive deal. Under it,

Boeing would supply all Conti-

nental's fleet needs for decades.

naking their bods with Boeing

alone, both American and

Delta won considerable dis-

counts from the aircraft maker.

increasingly interested in hav-

Moreover, airline chiefs are

It is widely believed that by

New York

The developments come as BT prepares to hear the outcome of today's extraordinary general meeting, at the Wembley Conference Centre, to approve the proposed £12.5bn merger with the US long-dis-tance phone giant, MCI. BT expects several hundred of its 2.3 million private shareholders to attend this morning's gathering. which is expected to last less

than an hour. The latest expansion into the lucrative international business communications market is seen

ing fleets composed of aircraft

from just one manufacturer. The advantages of a single-

brand fleet include simplified,

and cheaper, training and main-

tenance arrangements.

It may not, however, be too late for Airbus to beat back Boe-

ing on the Continental deal. The

**Continental close** 

to deal with Boeing

(£2.5bn).

buying MCI is the only way to provide a genuinely global service to customers. Though the merger is certain to be ap-

proved, some analysts continue to have reservations about the price BT is paying and the po-tential commercial benefits. The deal still needs approval from the European Commis-

sion, likely to be little more than a formality, and the US tele-phones watchdog, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC has made clear it will approve the merger

partnership with MCTs US as well-timed and likely to re-rival, AT&T. as well-timed and likely to re-inforce BT's contention that that the UK phone market is as nications market was worth free as the market in the US. The deal with Portugal Tele-

com involves BT taking a 1 per cent stake in the company for £45m when the shird phase of its privatisation takes place later this year. MCI will take a stake of 0.5 per cent. Portugal Telecom will be-

come the latest distributor of Concert business services, while BT clearly hopes it will lead to a partnership with Telebras, Brazil's leading phones group, with which Portugal Telecom has an existing alliance. BT

partnership with Concert with-

#### Metro-Cammell wins £100m train order

Michael Harrison

National Express yesterday

carrier is seeking to replace its fleet of 27 DC-10 jetliners with new medium-capacity aircraft.

A first order could amount to and was won by Metro-Cammell in competition with up to 20 othas many as 40 aircraft with a ticket value of some \$4.1bn Airbus has reacted furiously to the American and Delta deals, accusing Boeing of committing unfair marketing prac-tices. The consortium is still

considering whether it can launch legal challenges of the two deals. Airbus has also publicly questioned American and Delta over the wisdom of deals that effectively shut off any competitive bidding for their future aircraft acquisitions.

### nsory".

placed a £100m train order for its Gatwick Express franchise with GEC Alsthom's Metro-Cammell division, safeguarding up to 1,800 jobs in Birmingham. The order for eight luxury trains is one of the biggest since the rail industry was privatised

er rolling stock companies.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, hailed the news, saying: "Rail privatisation has opened the way for new investment and better services. At last our railways are free to raise standards and put the customer first."

However, the Save our Railways pressure group, which has campaigned against rail privatisation, said that investment in new trains was lagging far behind that achieved under the old British Rail and it described the for tilting trains for the West fleet replacement plans of the

privatised rail industry as "de-

The new trains will start to enter service in December 1998 and will cut the journey time from London Victoria to Gatwick from 30 to 25 minutes. There will be three standards of travel - executive, first and standard. "We aim to make the on-board service more like an airline experience than a traditional train journey," said the Gatwick Express managing director, Mac Mackintosh. Gatwick Express will lease the

trains direct from GEC Alsthom over a 12-year period. GEC Alsthom will design, build and maintain them. The extension of Gatwick Express's franchise from seven to 15 years was contingent upon it placing the order for new rolling stock.

Other train orders in the pipeline are a £250m order due from Cross Country Trains and an order worth up to £650m Coast Mainline.



Emirates 777.

every seat has a fax point too.



THE FINEST IN THE SKY

### ABF needs beefing up with a buy

on Tesco for £630m.

The proceeds mean ABF is set to end the year with a cash mountain of some £1.5bn, which it indicated could be geared up to give a war chest of twice

It is six years since executive chairman Garry Weston spent £880m buy-ing British Sugar, but he is clearly indicating that he is in the mood for another big acquisition.

Already big in businesses making use of basic agricultural products - wheat sugar, edible oils, speciality fats and the like - Mr Weston says he wants something which adds value up the chain without getting too close to the cutthroat competition from supermarkets. He freely admits that the speciality chemicals businesses recently put up for sale by Unilever would fit the bill per-

fectly.
National Starch, for instance, a world leader in many of its areas of speciality chemicals, food ingredients, adhesives and resins would probably carry a price tag of around £3bn. National's profits, put at around

£250m for last year, would transform the group. But with bids having gone in last week, competition will be intense and Mr Weston has not made his rep-

utation by overpaying.

Meanwhile, the trends in the existing business have been deeply uninspiring in the latest six months to March. Pre-tax profits crept ahead £3m to £201m, and even adding back the film hit from currency, the underlying growth of 8 per cent was hardly ex-

citing.

British Sugar took a £6m hit from changes to the green pound, leaving profits £3m lower at £84m. Results from the animal feeds operation, which vies with Dalgety for leadership of the UK market, sank by a quarter, hammered by the collateral effects of mad cow disease on the British herd and animal feed imports made cheaper by the strong pound.

But perhaps the most disappointing performance from the core domestic businesses came from Allied Bakeries, where after two years of im-provement, the bread wars have returned.

The price recovery of 1995 appeared to stall last year under the twin onslaught of a consolidated private sector and a renewed attack from supermarket own-label products. The latter, selling at 29p a loaf 12 months ago, are now down to 25p, where Mr Weston says neither he nor the retailer makes any money.

Even the harvest from ABF's cash pile has been poor, dropping from £22m to £28m after a disappointing performance from one of the group's four fund managers. They are now picking up less business from the group.

### was ignited last month when it unloaded its Irish supermarket chains THE INVESTMENT COLUMN price that means the enlarged group price that

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Associated British Foods: At a glance

So with Henderson Crosthwaite northern operations. Profitability in aglooking for flat full-year profits of gregates is determined by volume, £430m, after a £30m or so currency bit. the shares at 508.5p, down 13p, are on a forward multiple of 16 and in need of that big deal to pep them up. Hold.

#### Bardon and Camas fit like a glove

the excellent geographical fit between Bardon and Camas meant yesterday's merger to create Aggregate Industries was a deal waiting to happen. It makes abundant finan-cial sense, attested to by the movements in the two quarrying companies' share

will not get approval in the future, au-gur well for pricing.

In addition, analysts think the comin the two quarrying companies' share prices. Bardon, which thanks to its unrelieved ACT is being used as the effective acquisition vehicle, rose 3p to

41.5p, with Camas 8.5p higher at 92.5p.
In the US, Camas is strong in the mid-West while Bardon's heartland is in the mid-Atlantic states and Massachussetts. At home, where analysts believe the market for aggregates is finally bottoming out Camas's strength in the South-west and Midlands is com-plemented by Bardon's Scottish and around 4.3p of earnings per share this

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Net cash (Em)

Dividends per share (pence)

pricing and costs, so rising demand, the prospect of last year's price rises being held or even bettered, and a reduction of £10m in combined overheads means the deal should be handsomely earnings-enhancing. The collapse of the Government's road building programme, and the failure of the Private Finance Initiative to plug the gap, has dealt the industry a heavy blow, but what is not spent on new roads must inevitably go into maintenance. Environmental concerns, meaning new super quarries such as the two in Leicestershire the group will control

bined group has taken the pick of the two management teams to create a real force in the fast consolidating aggregates industry. On the basis of forecast profits of about £32m for each company, the combined group is expected to make about £65m in operating profit. Add in £10m cost savings and factor in a tax rate of only about 28 per cent thanks to Bardon's unrelieved

Share price (perce)

500

currently trades on a prospective price/earnings ratio of only 10 compared with a sector average multiple of about 12. With the prospect of one of the larger players stepping in to grab a share of the action before the marriage is consummated, that is an unwarranted discount. Either share is

#### Full steam ahead at Jarvis

Il the surprises at Jarvis, the construction group turned facilities Amanager, have been on the positive side since it announced the acquisition of one of the privatised railway maintenance companies last year. As a result, the shares, up another 14p As a result, the snares, up another 14p to 238.5p yesterday, have come close to quadruping since May and are near their all-time high. The latest surge came on a "warning" from the company that latest results would "substantially exceed" analysts' forecasts.

The figures will be complicated by the decision to move to a March yearend, but they will still show that Jarvis continues to be on something of a roll. The maintenance business, now called Jarvis Facilities, is winning even more business from the railways than expected. That means redundancy charges, signalled at £4.9m last year, are more likely to be £2.6m for the latest 15-month period. Although a further charge of £1m may be deferred into the current year, it is clear that the maintenance side has found work for more than 100 people it was otherwise expecting to lose, leaving a net loss of around 200 jobs. On top of the breadand-butter work from Railtrack in its core northern area, originally worth £353m up to 2001, the business is pick-

ing up work out of its region, So Jarvis Facilities, acquired for a net investment of £19m, could chip in operating profits before redundancies of £14.7m in just over nine months with Jarvis. But the good news does not end there. The switch in "old" Jarvis from straightforward contracting to more turnkey work has seen it pick up business like building the Coliox School in Dorset, which will bring together the construction business, the training arm and the facilities management side in a deal that could be worth £100m over 30 years. A £3m car park for the Medway Health Trust is another example. These sort of projects should mean fatter margins and a steadier in-come stream. Together, yesterday's news should be good for another £4.5m on profits, leaving an annualised figure of £14.6m for last year, rising to £27m. So on a forward p/e of 17, falling

Applevard close to making sales

car division to 23 sites from 37.

Appleyard is in advanced stages of negotiation over the sale of four car dealerships, as part of a plan to raise £2m from disposals this year. Mike Williamson, chairman and chief executive, said

the moves were aimed at improving profitability in the passen-

ger car division by focusing on the core profitable sites. The changes will reduce the number of franchises operated by the passenger

Dealings in shares in Barrasford Holdings were suspended on the Alternative Investment Market while it finalises the purchase of

eight freehold residential buildings in London's Queen's Gate Ter-

race for £13.5m, including a deposit of £1.75m. Barrasford said it was examining ways of financing the balance of the consideration.

Wardle Storeys, maker of plastic sheets, reported flat half-year pre-tax profits of £4.82m. The interim dividend, however, rises from 6p to 6.5p. Brian Taylor, chief executive, said the seasonal balance of business at newly acquired Eurovinil had constrained

the figures. Mr Taylor expected sustained medium-term growth

in operating profit, earnings and dividends, and said the group still aimed to use some of its £20m of cash to make acquisitions.

Full-year pre-tax profits at Olive Property jumped 25 per cent to £930,100. Earnings per share rose from 1.27p to 1.77p, and the dividend was lifted from 0.4p to 0.5p. Tony Grant, chairman, said acquisitions would continue to be sought, although suitable op-

Britannia Group reported pre-tax losses of £1.2m last year, com-

pared with profits of £713,000 previously. Turnover was down from

£49m to £39.8m. Christopher Powell, chairman, said the group was trading satisfactorily and the outlook was encouraging.

Company Results

-5.08m (7.79m)

2.29m (3.1m) 169,000 (-273,000) 0.19p (0.18p) nii (nii)

930,087 (746,231)

9.25m (7.47m) 641,000 (594,000) 3.81p (3.59p) 1.6p (1.5p)

Wardle Storevs bullish on prospects

Olive profits up 25 per cent

Britannia Group in the red

3.2m (7.8m)

Preston Resth End (1) 2.35m (1.28m) 2,000 (42,000)

Werdie Storoys (f) 54.12m (53.79m) 4.823m (4.82m)

(F) - Final (I) - interfam (M) - Mine months (SP) - Spik period

28.84m (28.13m) 4.55m (4m)

39.83m (48.97m) -1.2m (713.990)

72.41m (57.38m) 4.84m (3.05m)

58.63m (81.22m) -33.2m (-1.9m)

170.6m (212.7m) 8.7m (-2.27m)

man'y Missis Pre (F) 2.2m (1.2m) 482,000 (-140,000) 7.72p (-5.69p)

13.29m (3.76m) -14.8m (1,272m)

portunities were scarce.

Britanula Gunen 🔄

Ofinide Heed (F)

**Slatuse Exercy** (1)

Office Property (F)

Dectar (F)

Saltire (F)

Barrasford expands in central London

## Hanson focus sharpens with £145m sale

City Editor

Hanson took another step in its strategy of focusing on its core building materials operations yesterday, selling its electrical division to a CINVen-backed management buyout for £145m.

The deal, one of the first since Hanson demerged its chemicals, energy and tobacco operations in a four-way break-up last year, follows a £78m American acquisition last month which made Hanson one the US's

largest concrete pipe producers. Following the buyout, Han-son Electrical will rename itself Electrium. The business, which contributed about 6 per cent of Hanson's operating profits last year is one of the leading suppliers of electrical wiring ac-cessories and circuit protection products both for new build residential and commercial build-

high-quality business which has considerable growth opportunities available to it given the strength of its brands and reputation for excellence. We are delighted to be providing the funds for the acquisition."

Electrium's products include switches and sockets, sold under the Crabtree, Volex and Marbo brands, miniature circuit-breakers and household electrical cords. It employs 3,000 people in six UK manufacturing operations and plants

in France, Dubai and Malaysia. Cinven, itself a management buyout from the British Coal Pension Fund in October 1995, will be the majority shareholder in Electrium, which was built up by Hanson as a result of a string of acquisitions over the

ings and for use in repairs and past 15 years. The original maintenance.

Hugh Langmuir, a director of CINVen, said: "Electrium is a high-quality business which has considerable growth opposition."

past 13 years. The original wiring business came with the acquisition in 1982 of British. Ever Ready. Volex was added in 1991, followed by Scholes, which is intend the acquisition in 1991. which joined the group in 1994 in an agreed bid.

CINVen manages around

£1bn on behalf of three clients, British Coal Pension Funds, Railway Pension Schemes and Railway Pension Schemes and Barclays Bank Pension Funds. It recently completed its first in-dependent fund raising of £300m, which forms a private equity fund dedicated to in-vestments in the UK and Europe.

Pre-tax profits last year at Electrium were £13.4m struck from sales of £144.7m. Just over two-thirds of turnover is in the UK with the balance going to France, the Middle East and Asia. At home, the it is a big supplier to electrical wholesal-

### Mirror Group boss, 73, to seek re-election

Torry Macalister

Sir Robert Clark, the 73-yearold chairman of Mirror Group, will seek re-election at the newspaper group's annual meeting next month after a proposed shake-up in the com-

pany's articles of association. Until now two special clauses in the Mirror Group's articles of association have allowed the group to sidestep clauses in the Companies Act requiring directors to retire by rotation and seek re-election at every

agm after the age of 70.

But Paul Vickers, Mirror Group company secretary, said shareholders at the agm would be asked to approve changes which would "clean up" the articles in line with general busi-

He added: "We are aware that the exemptions in the articles had become unfashionable in the light of the Cadbury and Greenbury reports. So we are proposing changes that will require many directors to stand for re-election"

Sir Robert will ask for a 12-

month extension standing alongside several other directors including David Montgomery, chief executive, and Mr Vickers The company secretary said

that the changes were being proposed by the company, rather than being the subject of outside pressure.

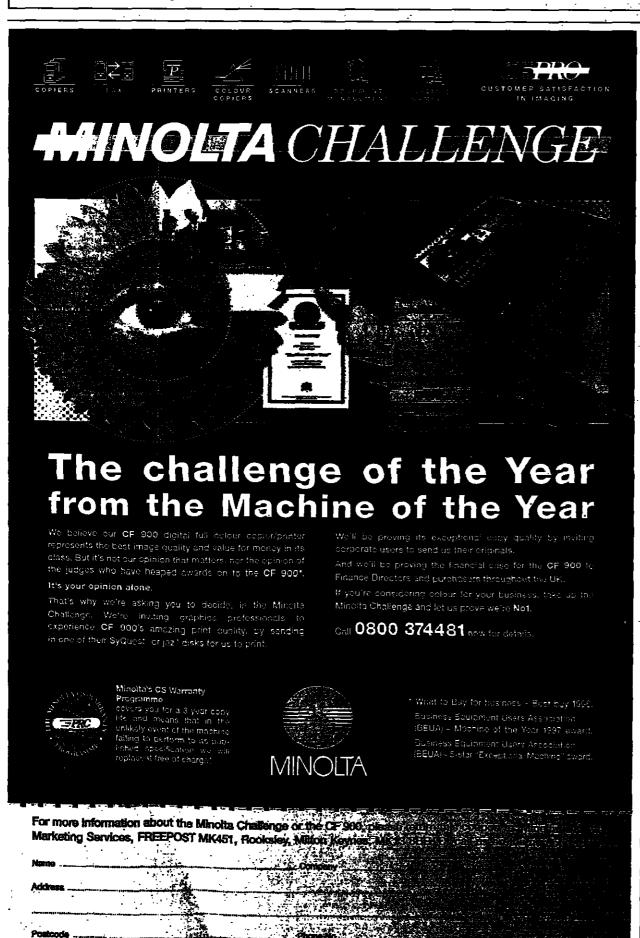
One newspaper report sug-gested there was investor concern about Sir Robert's age but Mr Vickers said that he had not

holders on this or other aspects of corporate governance. Mirror Group's largest shareholder, PDFM, is understood to be unconcerned about Sir Robert's age and is happy to see him continue in the role as chairman.

Mr Montgomery saw his total salary including bonus and pen-sion rise to £581,000 in 1996. His basic salary of £375,000 compared with £293,000 the year before. But a share award in 1995 would have brought the com-

parative figure to £328,000. Kelvin Mackenzie, managing director of Mirror Television. saw his total package rise from £265,000 to £362,000.

Mr Vickers said executives had been given increases last year to bring them into line with directors in media companies of been contacted by any share- a similar size.



#### Hard cheese IN BRIEF Arlen warns about current trading for jobs as Arlen, the electrical accessories group, lifted pre-tax profits 14 per cent to £4.6m, but warned about current trading. Earnings per share were up from 3.9p to 4.3p. The final dividend is 0.8p, making a full-year dividend of 1.2p (0.7p). However, Greville Howard, chairman, said trading for the first quarter was down on last year both in volume and margins. **Avonmore bids**

Chris Hughes

Shares in Waterfood Foods. Ireland's biggest cheese maker. jumped 10p to 105p yesterday after rivals Avonmore Foods confirmed its bid for the company to create the UK and Ireland's leading milk producer. However, the move only served

to heighten fears of job cuts at the combined group.

Avonmore, which saw its shares rise 1.5p to 220p, is of-fering one shares for every two in Waterford and claimed the board and the farmers' co-operative which owns 68 per cent of the group said they were studying the proposal and would respond in due course. The bid needs the support of 75 per cent of the shareholders to succeed. The merged group would be called Avonmore Waterfood and have a turnover of Ir£2.5bn and pre-tax profits in the region of Ir£71.5m.

Both companies have an extra 3.25p a gallon on the almost identical range of businesses including the manufacture of butter, cheese, liquid milk, animal feeds and fertilis-

ers. Analysts say the merged group would benefit from substantial economies of scale and cost-cutting. They are a superb fit. There

gies in their operations," said Liam Igoe, an analyst at Goodbody, the Dublin stockbrokers. However, there has been speculation that 800 jobs may go in post-merger rationalisation after Avonmore said it

are tremendous cross syner-

would seek to cut costs in a glutted global milk market.
"The feeling here is one of bid was not hostile. Waterford's concern," said Tony Mansfield. senior Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union

(ATGWU) official. "There is a throw-way remark in the middle of all this analystspeak on the merger that cost savings of up to £Ir20m could be made due to rationalisation of overlapping facilities. That obviously means closing down

Avonmore has offered an price of milk to farmers if the offer is successful, and Mr Mansfield believes job losses will pay for it.

### Proudfoot stumbles deeper into the red u

Magnus Grimond

Dividend

-10.4p (7.5p) 4.7p (6.2p)

4.3p (3.9p) 1.2p (0.7p)

22.38p (17.03p) 7.7p (6.7p)

1.77p (1.27p) 0.5p (0.4p)

12.3p (12.5g) 6.5p (6.0p)

-4,45p (0.57p)

0.140 (4.719)

5.55p (-)

8,47p (-13,96p) 1,2p

5.57p (3.02p) 1.225p (1.1125p)

-4.4p (3.1p) 6.5p

Proudfoot, the troubled management consultancy formerly chaired by Lord Stevens, slumped deeper into the red last year as a result of the decision to sell the Crosby education tutorial business.

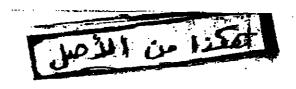
A £37.8m loss on the disposal increased the group's losses from £1.9m to £33.2m for the year to December and the company warned there was little likelihood of an improvement this year. Even so, the shares gained 1.5p to 13.5p yesterday.

Malcolm Hughes, chief executive, said that, after several difficult years, "we continue the process of rebuilding the business to reclaim our position

as one of the world's leading consulting organisations". There would be no dividend payments until the group's financial position stabilised.

Turnover slid from £81.2m to £56.6m, More than a third of the drop in consulting revenues resuited from the closure of local operations in South-east Asia, Mexico and Spain. But Mr Hughes said "a significant proportion of the balance arose from disappointing performances in the US and Germany, which are normally higher fee and higher-margin markets.

Operating margins were raised to 10 per cent last year.
but management attention will be directed towards increasing them towards 15 per cent.



651.1m shares, 42,369 bangains 93.64 ±0.18



Utilities shrug off windfall fears to retain their glow Utilities, once seen as the big casualties of a potential

Labour government, remain the stock market flavour of this As equities drifted, unsettled

by Friday's New York slump, many of the old privatised groups turned in encouraging performances with leading investment houses continuing to point to their attractions. The general view is that windfall tax worries have been exaggerated, the regulatory climate is unlikely to deterio-rate and dividend growth

The English generators, National Power and PowerGen, have been charged up since John Major's come-to-thepolls invitation. NP, 498.5p when the election was called, climbed 9.5p to 535p; PG rose 10.5p to 638.5p from 623.5p. Over the same period Footsie NatWest Securities once

again drew attention to NP; Morgan Stanley, the US investment house, was another extolling NP's virtues, saying

the generator was well-positioned for growth.

The US group also took a shine to National Grid, up 5p at 222p. Energy, one of the former Hanson constituents, also found forcers with Management. found favour with Morgan,

gaining 7.5p to 495.5p. It is in the running to buy the New England Electricity operation. Other milities higher included Thames Water, up 2.5p at 677p, and ScottishPower, 4.5p at 381p.

Southern Electric, the last survivor of the 1990 regional electricity sell-off, rose 8.5p to 428.5p. Inevitably stories its days of independence will not last much longer are going the rounds. But it is just possible

that if there is a change of gov-ernment Southern will defy the

odds and continue to go it



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

BG had another strong session, gaining 4p to 185.5p, highest since it split from Centrica. The market is reading the delay in its confrontation with Ofgas as a sign it should enjoy a favourable outcome; there is also persistent, if unlikely, speculation of takeover interest with, as usual, unidentified overseas players said to be in-

BT fell 3.5p to 438p. Shareholders meet today to approve the merger with MCI, the US group. The proposed deal has prompted Société Générale Strauss Turnbull to produce some telephone number profyear ended last

£3.15bn; this year the forecast is £4.3bm and next year SocGen is shooting for £5.75bm. The securities house believes the shares are a buy and points to the possibility that many UK "substantially underweight" once the merger is completed. Footsie ended 19 points lower at 4,251.7. In early trad-

ing it was off 37.8. The interest rate cloud continues to hover threateningly with in-creases on both sides of the Atlantic regarded as foregone

The decline was accentuated by dividend payments removGeneral Electric Co firmed

to 370p. The electronics giant is still trying to get involved in the Thomson-CSF sell-off in France and could be holding talks with the Lockheed Mar-

tin group. Health shares had a downbeat session. Shield Diagnostic, despite another impressive statement, fell 30p to 607-5p. Erik Hornnaess, with Abbott Diagnostics, has become a director and new stockbroker rector and new stockbroker UBS is hosting institutional meetings this week. Celltech lost 10p to 560. SkyePharma, reflecting investment presentations, rose 8p to 83p and ML Laboratories' long decline was arrested with a 15p gain to 102 5p.

Zeneca fell 17p to 1.834p with ABN Amro Hoare Govett adopting a negative stance;

1,026p although going ex-divided of the identification of the shares 10p to 621.5p.

Its self advice lowered the shares 10p to 621.5p.

Jarvis, the building and railway maintenance group shares 10p to 621.5p.
JN Nichols, the Vimto soft drink group, fizzed another 9p higher to 206.5p. The shares

have risen 20p in three trading Raine, the building group, moved ahead another 1.5p to 19p. Trading was again active with Seaq putting volume at 4.6 million shares. The gossip, which has lifted the shares 2.75p in two trading sessions, ranges from a hostile bid to a

big disposal. The Bardon merger with ri-Parties and the second with reval Camas was welcomed with Bardon up 3p at 434.5p and Camas 9.5p higher at 93.5p.

Queensborough, the leisure group, shaded to 33p. There are worries its expansion plans will force a rights issue. But

will force a rights issue. But such talk seems wide of the mark. Stockbroker Collins Stewart expects profits this year to move to £4.2m from £3.22m.

railway maintenance group, jumped 15.5p to 240p; the

ago. Latest excitement stemmed from Jarvis reporting profits would top market hopes. Its stockbroker, Peel Hunt, promptly lifted its estimates. For the period to the end of last month it went from £10.1m to £14.6m and this year from £21m to £27m.

Results should be announced in June; there could be an acquisition before then.

ham Forest into one of his quoted vehicles - Carlisle or printer Thomas Potts. held at 10.5p; Potts eased to 13.25p. The market believes Potts has a deal lined up which will involve a placin But it is not convinced it will

11000000 Tesco

11.00 42493 down 214 12.00 42430 down 27.7

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 4232.9 down 378 09.00 42344 down 383

Why pay bank charges when

	First Direct is a division of Mediand Bank pi open an account for you. Calls may be mor 18 or over, Free banking means that there a withdrawals in the UK, standing orders and debits, Switch payments or monthly statem	direct washing a comment
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #	2007 Index High Low Stock Price Cog Yid PASCoom	1987 Index Price Chy Yor P/SCode
60 60	11's 2's Spora Smooth 250's 's 12 - 5364 38') 266') Spot Ander 266') 5') - 530 67's 76's Thoughust 85's 1 35 386 4221	Leisure & Hotels
40	hivestment Trusts	1965 787 Altourn 2055 2 21 22 544 1875 385 AltoClasi 38 # 27 225 695 1875 387 Account 1885 26 447 1875 387 Bicken 1885 26 1885 1875 387 Bicken 1885 27 1885

why pay bank charges when First Direct is free?

jobs as more bit and the state of the state of

#### business

### The exchange rate is right so let's all go on holiday

Ws there such a thing as a single "right" exchange rate, or does the right rate range over time? The spur to this question comes, of course, from the performance of sterling in recent weeks, and in particular the fact that it is back in its

old ERM range.
The popular wisdom at the time of ERM membership was that sterling had gone in at too high a rate. That was certainly what the Bundesbank thought, though the Bank of England believed that the rate of the pound against the European currencies was acceptable - it was the rate against the dollar,

then around \$1.90, that was not. The subsequent decline in sterling, it is now widely accepted, laid the basis for the economic recov-cry. It would seem to follow that the old rate must have been wrong. Now that the pound is back in its ERM band (though towards the bottom of it) the present rate must

presumably be wrong, too.
That is the conventional wisdom and, if it is right, then glum times are ahead. The market is presumably making a mistake and the pound will come back down. But this may take some time, particularly since it will be buoyed up in coming months by two things: the strong dollar and the high interest rates required to curb over-rapid domestic growth. We are not going to get sterling back down quickly unless there is extreme incompetence by the incoming government, which would be an even less satisfactory outcome than suffering the costs of an overvalued pound.

Suppose, on the other hand, that the key problem was not the ERM exchange rate as such but a combination of the over-high interest rates that ERM membership imposed and too high a dollar rate. Then the outlook could be aitogether more benign - particularly if one looks at the impact that the surge in the Deutschmark had on the German economy two years ago. The effect of that was to force a radical rethinking by Gerisa difficult and painful business. force a radical rethinking by German exporters on how to cut their But at least it is better that people costs. As a result German manu-



Hamish McRae

If conventional wisdom is right then glum times are ahead. The market is

presumably making a mistake and the pound will come back down. But this may take time

to one-third over a four-year period. There has been a cost, for most German employers shed labour and that is one of the reasons why German unemployment is currently so high. But the adverse impact of such a squeeze would be much less marked in the UK for at

least three reasons. First, the currency-induced squeeze would come at a quite different stage of the economic cycle: boom rather than slump. As a result, labour shed by manufacturing has a much better chance of being reabsorbed by the service sector. For should lose their jobs at a time when

be re-employed elsewhere, rather than (as in Germany) where there are fewer such options.

Second, we know from past experience that the UK economy, unlike the German one, is very good at creating service-sector jobs. It is creating a lot at the notest; in fact one of the worries is that it is creating too many for the labour supply, hence the sharp rise in service sector wage rates over the past four

Finally, unlike Germany at any time since reunification, the UK is not in current account deficit at the moment, and while all past history should make UK-economy watchers twitchy about the balance of payments, there seems to be no pressing reason to be concerned about the payments' implications of a strongish pound.

So not only is the UK cyclically better-placed to cope with an over-strong currency, but it is also struc-

turally better-placed to do so.

To say all this is not to defend an unreasonable exchange rate: it is simply to say that a somewhat stronger pound may do less damage than the pessimists currently suggest. Insofar as it has the longterm effect of boosting exporters' productivity there is even a bonus.

If that is right it is encouraging, for it suggests that, within broad margins, there are several "right" rates for a currency. Maybe the ex-perience of wildly fluctuating rates particularly through the 1970s and early 1980s has trained commerce and industry to live with uncertainty. But there is the bigger question which concerns whether "right" exchange rates vary over time.

The conventional benchmark for assessing the appropriate value of currencies is purchasing power parity, but currencies can depart from their PPP for long periods, perhaps up to a decade, maybe longer. For the best part of a decade the dollar has been undervalued, and it suffered bouts of undervaluation during the 1970s. Go back, however, to the immediate post-war period and it was clearly overvalued. For the yen, and to some extent the mark, the reverse has been true.

It is now at least plausible that the long secular decline of the dollar against the yen and the mark is past, and that it will tend over the next 30 years to be a strongish currency. Demography, technology, structural changes in trade patterns and so on might account for this.

You can extend the argument to sterling, for the UK also has a significantly less adverse demographic pattern that the "strong currency countries" of Germany and Japan. If this is right, we now would be at an important turning-point in currency trends, with the dollar and the pound (assuming it is not abandoned for the euro) becoming gradually stronger over the next 30 years and the yen and the mark (if it is not dumped, too, for the euro) becoming progressively weaker. The "right" rates will change over time, just as they have in the past

- but in a different direction. But, whatever happens to the long-term trends, there is an argument that in the short term the right rate varies: it varies with theeconomic cycle. While the cycle exists and while countries are at different stages of the cycle, it is helpful to have a bit of exchange rate flexibility to pump things up or damp them down.

So sterling could have been at too high a rate in 1992, yet still be at an appropriate rate now. It is a simple point: currency movements, far from being a malign shock imposed by evil speculators, are a natural buffer, along with interest rates, helping iron out economic fluctu-

Seen this way, sterling's strength is helpful and not just because cheaper imports are belping hold down inflation: the rate is appropriate for the economy as a whole, even if it makes life difficult for

manufacturing exporters.

Let's hope so. One thing is sure: whether or not the rate is right or wrong is academic, for with one exception there is not a blind thing we can do about it. The exception? Well, we can enjoy holidays on the Continent now that prices are, in sterling terms, back to an acceptable level. Hurry while stocks last.

# Lloyd's of London tries to squeeze cash out of Gokal

Where do those guys at Lloyd's of London get their optimism from? Hot on the heels of launching the unlaunchable Equitas reinsurance project, Lime Street has set its sights on squeezing cash out of convicted BCCI fraudster Abbas Gokai.

A writ has been issued from Lloyd's financial recovery unit (aka law firm Dibb, Lupton & Alsop) against the Pakistani shipowner who was found guilty

early this month of a \$1.2bn scam. Gokal, who apparently owes a mere £90,000 to Lloyd's, was an investor in the market for more than 20 years. He was on a range of syndicates such as 206, 209, 510 and 601, all of which are effectively wound-up, in run-off.

Gokal was an enthusiastic, if relatively unsuccessful, investor in Lloyd's but he was not so keen on using the market for insuring his own Gulf Shipping business. He apparently found Lloyd's too tough on claims and chose instead to place his risks with other players such as the American Hull Insurance Syndicate.

Even the Lloyd's spokesman admitted it might not be the easiest of tasks. But the insurance market is determined to ensure that any hidden assets in the Gokal estate are sniffed out. "I have no doubt we will pursue

the matter to its natural conclusion," said the spokesman. Lloyd's was not willing to say where the writ was served; one wonders whether it was HMP Brixton, Gokal's home for the past few months. Unsentenced, Gokal has yet to hear where his long-term home might be.

Tom Peters is widely credited as inventing the management guru industry with his best-selling book In Search of Excellence. But a new biography suggests the best thing

he invented was himself. The \$100,000-a-day consultant likes to present himself as a kind of corporate rock and roll star, a renegade his former employer, McKinsey & Co, found too hot to handle. But despite the title, Corporate Man to Corporate Skunk, Stuart Crainer's biography, suggests the real Mr Peters is a rather more traditional type.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Abbas Gokal: an enthusiastic but unsuccessful investor in Lloyd's

It notes that the graduate of two of the United States's most reputable universities - Stanford and Cornell - had served in Vietnam with the US Navy. This was at a time when other rebels were protesting about the war. And he went on to work directly for the US Government before finding

his true management guru calling. The book also trawls through the inevitable details about how most of the companies extolled by Mr Peters hit trouble. The management consultant himself gives a typically gung-ho response to such concerns: "In Search of Excellence's eight principles have survived intact - just the companies

Mr Peters, who urges executives to take in world literature, would no doubt welcome the appearance of a new tome from that worthy bunch, the Industrial Society. Wrapped in a suitably bloodred cover. David Whyte's The Heart Aroused is subtitled "Poetry and the Preservation of the Soul

at Work".
Mr Whyte believes that "a better understanding and appreciation of our inner, more creative selves can help build better per-

formance at work".

Apparently he is helping clients as varied as Kodak, Boeing and as varieu as Atolak, boeing and Arthur Andersen to use verse in developing an understanding of change. What next? That famous French poet, Eric Cantona, giving management consultancy courses at Old Trafford"

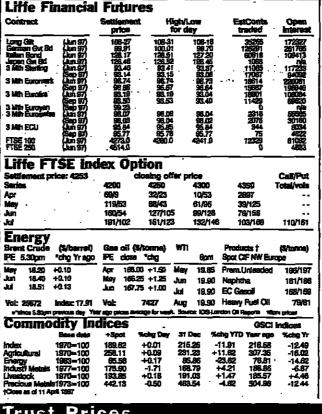
Whatever you might say about traffic wardens, they are at least wholly indiscriminate - they can ruin anyone's day. Peter Tom, chief executive of Bardon, was at the offices of his company's spin doctors, Financial Dynamics, yesterday, celebrating the merger with rival Camas. He had every reason to feel pleased with himself - he'd beaten his opposite number, Alan Shearer, to the top slot in the combined venture. Aggregate Industries, and seen hisrugby team, Bath, trounce his new chairman's favoured XV. Leicester, at the weekend. Outside the office, though, poetic juin tice was going about its blindfolded business as two of the Met's finest gave their attention to a handsome Range Rover on a yellow line - inconspicuous number plate: TOM 45. Amazing how those merger costs mount up.

**Terry Macalister** 

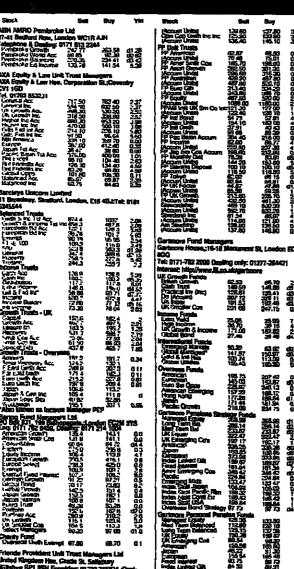
CHELTENHAM

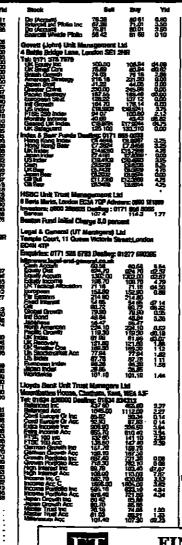
### facturing productivity rose by close there is a good chance that they can Foreign Exchange Rates 250-190 51 5-1 260-270 128-239 1220-160 33-84 2-4 67-26 2-5-33 0-0 0-0 11242 0.3750 40409 841496 44266 0.8521 0.7447 44969 14559 0.8385 2,763 31435 10513 11300 23531 12378 23829 20824 12575 40713 23447 60858 23391 Other Spot Rates Country 138.093 06249 65.05239 42.85239 279.372 5.9072 9318.22 7.2374 44.8525 5.9616 85.0800 0.3850 400799 26.3840 172.170 3.6415 574.00 4.4590 276400 3.6730 09999 121284 10599 82965 34009 5.501 190000 271100 35.8450 0.3042 196802 1.7203 13.4660 5.5169 8.3591 3082.18 440022 58.1639 0.4937



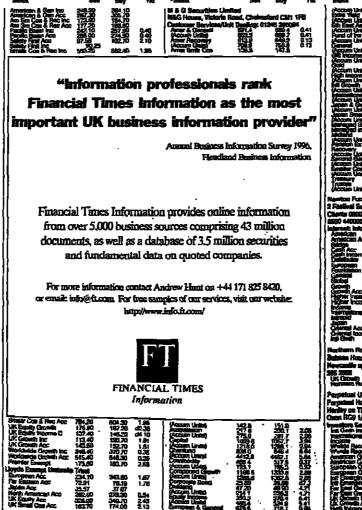


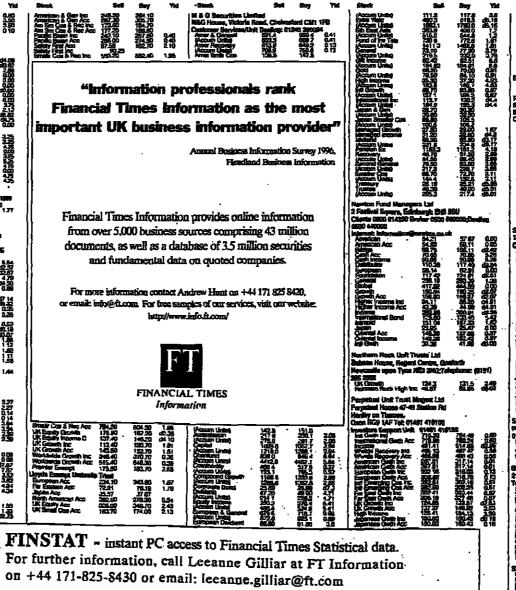
	Indu	strial	Me	als			•	London M	etal Ex	change
		\$4	onne Cas	h	3 mins	Vo	lume	LIME Stock	13	chg
	Aluminius Aluminius Copper A Lead Nickel Tin Zing	ni Alloy	1513.0-1 1423.0-2 2289.0-9 621.0- 7070-8 5655-6 211.5-12	5 14 2 .22 2 0 .	48.0-49 48.0-57 51.0-52 631.0-2 7185-90 5710-15 8.5-37.5	25 13 16 4	361 584 357 571 228 356	838350 71040 158675 107775 49140 10036	* * *	1500 160 326 0 330 20 1250
	Settle	ernest Cont Rige rates:	rension	55 5253 5253	\$10m 1.7221	126.43	· · · 5	itock volumes orvies as at Fr	-	
	Pre	cious	Me	als	_				Spin	k & Son
	pers fix /coz		5 5	C	olm#	5	3		!	1 8
-	Platinum Pallacium Silver sp Gold But	n 154.2 ot 472	<b>5</b> 95.10	) Britay Britay	mia mia-5 cz mia-25 cz ma-10 cz	370 190 94 41	228 117 58 25	Krughands Sovs Nobles Mople Leaf	81/9 368/38	227/237
	Agri	cultu	ral							
	Cocos		Coffee		Bartes	,	Po	culose	Pete	tose
	UFFE	£/tonne	LIFFE	\$/tonne	UFFE	<b>Efforms</b>	LIF	FE E/lonne	ATA	Gld/100kg
	Mar May Jul Vol:	1013 1029 1039 4888	Mar May Jul Vol:	1553 1565 1575 2289	May Sep Nov Vol:	92.50 96.25 98.25 11	Ap Ma Jur Voi	y 6750 1 7700	Apr May Jun Vol:	7,80 9,90 13,00 322
	White S	-	Preight		Wheel.		Co		Cents	Na serbarat
	_	\$/tonne		\$106d=pt		Stone	-	HHLO		Sott
-	Aug 3	11.80 110.80 106.50 4680	Mar Apr Vol: Index	1400 1415 1275 1420		99.25 02.25 99.40 761	May Jul Sep	310-30	4,50	304.25 307.0 292.50
	Oth	er So	fts	-			_			
	May Uniq Apr	Copre († Cotton () Wool Rubber*	NY) USO ACE Mcs	onne ent/fo et/kg et/kg	108.75 142.00 71.40 Unq 292.00	Apr Apr und May/Ju Apr/Ma	Con Sun Rep y Gro	ra CRS Pl. contut Oil (†): nikwer Oilo : cessed Oil§F sundnut Oil ! a Somoe, FT to	<b>Morne</b> 1./100kg Etonne	850,00
	-			- 1 <b>-</b>		water	- email	s amounted to I di	C 10 10 10	

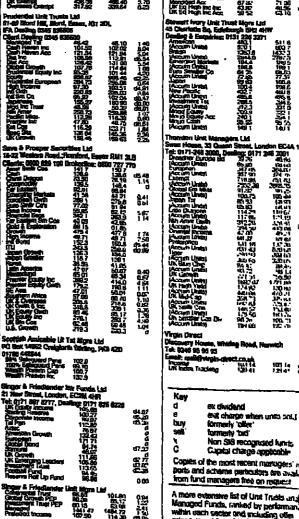




FINANCIAL TIMES







اعكذا من الأصل

<u> 10-1</u>

12-1

12:1

11:1

12-1

40-1

50:1

66-1

161 20-1

1.7-1

12:1

12<u>-1</u>

20-1

33-1

50.1

40-1

66-1 100-1 100-1

\_\_\_\_\_\_50-1 50-1

16-1

16-1

33-1

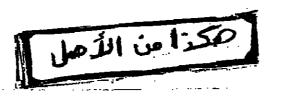
.73-1

68-1

-0-1

\_\_100-1\_\_\_

16-1



RACING: The Flat season moves up a gear with the start of the Craven meeting at Newmarket RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

## Baked Alaska ready for Nell Gwyn

**GREG WOOD** 

ing great things for his string -"the nicest bunch of threeyear-olds I've ever had" etc. etc. Trainers in Newmarket and be--but the bitter truth is that they yond will have bounded out of have little more idea than the bed even earlier than usual rest of us how the season will this morning, and not just beprogress. As a result, this is cause the unseasonally warm rarely a meeting which offers weather means that, for the first more than a handful of betting time in living memory, the opportunies, but then with Family Mile in April might ac-tically be a fairly pleasant place three maidens and just a single handicap on today's seven-race card, most punters will swiftly

to be. The Craven meeting, the first of a new campaign at the epicentre of British Flat racing, opens this afternoon, and ne with a dozen horses to look after can still fantasise about Classic winners, betting coups and championships to come. In other words, for a few hours at least, this small Suffolk town will be the world capital

of self-delusion. At every turn on the track, there will be a trainer predict-

Street General is a danger.

2.35: MONAASSIR, most impressive

quarters of a length in a stakes race

over this trip at Kempton on his

reappearance, can successfully step up in class. Cayman Kai may pose

Ich la

Nell Gwyn Stakes, for instance, the feature race on today's

work this out for themselves.

Even the traditional Craven

pursuit of attempting to find a

its trial is ever more difficult,

since the success of the Godol-

phin operation, which sends

its candidates to Newmarket

without a prep race, leaves

much of the cycle of trials look-

ing rather meaningless. The

Guineas winner before it wins

Guineas entrants among its 10strong field, but not the ones most punters are interested in, such as Sleepytime and Moonlight Paradise In any case, the Nell Gwyn

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Monaa Newmarket 2.35) NB: Friendship (Cheitenham 3.30)

has rarely been a particularly reliable signpost to the Guineas, and cynics might feel that the two fillies without an entry in the Classic, Connemara and Open Credit are thus a certainty for the dual forecast. Given the general mood of optimism at the meeting, however, it seems fairer to concentrate on those runners who were felt worthy of a an enormous amount at home,

are bobbing gently in the calmer waters of the ante-post market. Elegant Warning is 25-1 for the fillies' Classic, while four other runners, Baked Alaska, Dame Laura, Oh Nellie and Reunion are 40-1 or longer. Only Baked Alaska, howev-

er, can point to an unblemished record, since her sole outing as a juvenile ended in victory over today's course at odds of 33-1. "We're going into unknown territory but I'm very pleased with her," Alec Stewart, Baked Alaska's trainer, said yesterday. "She's a very lazy filly at home. and always has been, hence

we're very hopeful and she's looking exceptionally well. "She's not like Ghariba [winner of the Nell Gwyn for Stewart in 1988], who always showed

when she won she was 33-1, but

able conveyance for some loose change may be CARRANITA (nap 2.35) in the Abernant Stakes. One to watch carefully, meanwhile, is Poteen, runnerup in last season's Racing Post Trophy on only his second start, who will prepare for the 2,000 Guineas in the three-year-olds' conditions event (3.45).

seen her on the track, but I cer-

ity to get his horses ready first

time up, Baked Alaska (next

best 3.10) is worth chancing this

afternoon, though a more reli-

Given Stewart's proven abil-

tainly think she'll run well."

While the Flat season moves up through the gears, the jumps campaign is running out of gas, though today's card at Chel-tenham does include at least one event, the Silver Trophy Chase, worth setting the video a spokeswoman for. Strong Promise (2.55), a man's yard said.

Newmarket - 2.3	5	Chelten
. C_H_	1 1	ijotao
named) 2-1 94 5	2 11-4	Friendship 3
sman Kal 7-2 7-2 4	!! 1	Sher Byer
speta 9-2 4-1 i		Str Depth
ey Doder 13-2 6-1 6		Feeting Line
Marcal Planet 13-2 7-1 6	11	Good Vibes
mbling Spar 11-1 12-1 11		Seebrook Lad
•	— II I	Syche Cale
Majody Parles 141 101 14	- II I	Tabba yazasirook
te Pandre 16-1 20-1 14	11 1	Rhythan And Blass
Eachway a fifth the colds, places 1,	23	Each-eay a filth f

card, may feature eight 1,000 Guineas entry, several of whom so I can't be confident until I've beaten favourite at both the Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals, should recoup some of those losses, though with Gales Cavalier and Viking Flagship both getting weight from Gooff Hubbard's chaser, nothing can be taken for granted.

The season's last big steeple chase but one, the Scottish National at Ayr this Saturday, should also be quite a spectacle, with Act The Wag, a swiftimproving eight-year-old, declared a probable runner yesterday. Buckboard Bounce. fourth in the Grand National. Lo Stregone and Belmont King are other possible runners, but Mudahim, the Irish Grand National winner, was withdrawn at vesterday's five-day stage. "He's done quite enough this season to warrant a nice long holiday, a spokeswoman for Jenny Pit-

ham - 3.30	200, 100, 2 420, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 1	203. \$22023 1,	E. O. 4 (A)	. GERMAN,	
C H L T					
10030 31 31 72 51 92 51 51	2,000 Gui	neas Sta	kes (1r	n)	-
51 51 51 51	Horse (Trainer)			Lachrokes	Tote
41 11-2 13-2 51	Shamilich (Speed bm Surcori	7-2	_	3.1	
74 74 74 74	Revogue (P Chapple-Hyam)		5_1	9-7	5-1
81 74 212 74	Indiscreet (D Loder)	9,1_	_10-1	10-1	9.1
10-1 10-1 3-1 10-1	Entrepreneur (M Stoute)	12-1	10-1	12-1	10-1
124 124 114 101	Musical Pursuit (M Tompluts:	14-1, _	12-1	12:1	17:1
151 141 161 1 <sup>2</sup> 1	Poteen IL Cumanil	14-1	14_1	14-1	12.1
te cotts.phoss 1.2.3	Putra iP Colei		12:1.	12:1_	121
Hill, L Ladhrokes, T Tale	Zeminder (A Fabre Fr)	14;1	16_1	16-1	<u> 18-1</u>
	Cape Cross (J Gosden)	16-1	16-1	1,1-1	20-1
	in Command (B Hills)	<u>25-1</u>	20-1_		_?0_1

Saraylır (W.R. Hem)

Elegant, Warning (8 Hus)

One So Wonderful IL Cumani)

Fleet River (H Cecil)

#### stic Fallow /C Britain: 33-1 70-1 33-1 Each-way a quarter the oods, places 1, 2, 3 (Newmarket, Salurday, 3 May) 1.000 Guineas Stakes (1m) <u> 11.4</u> Moonlight Paradise (Sizeed bin Surpor) 4.1 Pas De Reponse (Mme C Hearl Fr) 5-1 7-1 10-1 Sianca Nera (D Loder) 12-1 10-1 10-1

20-1

14-1

20-1

\_16-1

25-1

25-1

20-1

Scottish National Handicap Chase (4m 1f)

ionse (Transriveght) meracker iC Weedon 10st2tb Cab On Target (Mrs M Reveley 10-19c) or Sell -A.C. Whitans 11st

amiliaza (K Baile) 9a1135i

Otteshin (H.J. Manners/10st6th

Lo Stregono (T Tate 11st10to)

report iD Nehokon 9st 13(5)

wy House U J O'Ne 185:13b

A N C Express (J King 9st31b)

ourt Majody iP tucholis 9412th

ee IP Hobbs 9st111b1\_\_

Buckboard Bousso IG Rehards 11st 251 10-1

ster Stephenie :G McCourt 10:43& 10-1

chouse Boy ·N T-Daver/10sr11th 14-1

ds Street :D Nicholson 10-15m 14-1

Act The Wag M. Todhunler 9st 12(b) 12-1

Prototets Builde (Lines L Russell, 10st20) 12-1

olland House P R Charmers 10:13th 20-1

Dakyna Boy (N I-Daxes 95112b) 25-1

No Pala No Gain U Gifford 9st 10th 33-1

lorthern Squire J M Jefferson Sst12lbi 68-1

Plastic Spaceage (J Old Sc: 4th) 88-1

Off The Bru (Mrs S Bradburne 7413b) 100-1

Highland Man U.S. Haldane 7971151 100-1 100-1 66-1

100-1

a Gale (R Curte 8:221h)

ook D'Or (A J Milson 943)bi

ons Brig 1 S Haldane 9st?len

Oaks Stakes (1m 4f)										
Horse (Trainer)	Coral W	Corei William Hill Ladbrokes								
Fascinating Rhythm (H Cecil)	12-1	14-1	12-1	14-1						
Mouse Glaces IJ Lesbordes/Fr)	16-1	14-1	14-1	16-1						
Yeshmak (H Cecil)	15-1	14-1	14-1	<u> 16-1</u>						
Fili III Ceculi	20-1	16-1	20-1	16-1						
Ryafan (J Gosden)	20-1	1 <u>6-</u> 1_	doubthi	20-1						
Saraytr (W R Hem)	16-1	16-1	14-1	20-1						
Reams Of Verse (H Cecili	25-1	16-1	25-1	16-1						
Sleepytime (H Cecil)	25-1	16-1	20-1	16-1						
Strawberry Roan (A O'Bhen/iri)	25-1	25-1	20-1	16-1						
Shell Ginger (A P O'Bnen/irl)	25-1	25-1	33-1	33-1						
Summer Dance (M Stoute)	25-1	33-1	20-1	<u> 25-1</u>						
Apache Star (Sared by Surport	25-1	40-1	33-1	50-1						
Lookout (B Hills)	25-1	50-1	25-1	30-1						
Each-way a quarter the odds.	places 1, 2, 3	(Epsom, F	riday. 6 June)							

Derby Stakes (1m 4f)										
Horse (Trainer)	Coral Wi	iliam Hill Li	dbrokes	Tota						
Entrepreneur (M Stoute)	8-1	7-1	7-1	7-1						
Happy Valentine (Saeed br) Surgor)	12-1	14-1	14-1	12-1						
Yorkshire (P Cole)	20-1	16-1	16-1	16-1						
Indiscreet (D Loder)	20-1	20-1	25-1	16-1						
Medaaly (Saeed bin Surpor)	25-1	25-1	25-1	_20:1						
Revogue (P Chapple-Hyam)	25-1	25-1	25-1	20-1						
Shaya (W R Hem)	16-1	16-1	16-1	25-						
Apprehension (D Loder)	25-1	33-1	25-1	_33-						
Assas (Saeed bin Surger)	25-1	25-1	33-1	33-:						
Crimson Tide (J Hals)	25-1	25-1	25-1	33-						
King Sound (/ Gosden)	25-1	25-1	33-1	25						
Shemiich (Saeed bin Suroor)	25-1	33-1	25-1	33						
Desert Story (M Stoute)	25-1	40-1	40-1	40-						

## 2.30: 1. DREAM RIDE (R Johnson) 13-8 for 2. Stormhill Pligdin 3-1; 3. Fortnia Rosie Dawn 16-1. 10 ran. 6, 2%. (D Nicholson), Totas: £2.02 £1.50, £1.40, £2.20. DF: £5.10. CSF: £6.23. fm: £4.35.0. 3.00: 1. CANDWICKS: GRINGER (D Byrne) 5-1; 2. Cheesica 33-1; 3. Pernytian Gale 8-1. 11 ran. 13-8 for Pearl Ence (47th, 3%, nk. W Timning, Totas: £5.90: £2.20, £11.70, £2.50. DF: £1.44.30. CSF: £1.39.80. Treast: £1.193.78. Too: £2.7.40. 3.30: 1. MISSTER HORATTO (Mr M Lewis) 7-2 ft-fax: 2. Greenmount Lad 9-2; 3. Wolver's Pet 6-1. 11 ran. 7-2.4.2 the Point HEXHAM

13-2: 2. All Clear 7-1: 3. Jonness 9-4 tav. 8 ran. 6. 5. (M Barres). Tota: £6.70; £2.20, £3.00, £1.40. Dr. £15.20. CS-70; £42.39. 2.40: 1. EASTELBFE (G Calul) 7-4 tav. 2, Pappa Charlie 3-1; 3, Raise A Dellar 4-1. 12 ren. 5, 11, NV McNeoami, Tota: £4.30; £1.10, £1.70, £2.10, DF: £6.30, CSF: £6.49, Trac: £4.00. 26.99. Tro: 54.00.
3.10-1, BISHOPDALE (F Perrott) 6-1: 2. Shawwell evers bar, 3. Aristodeamus 12-1. 4 ras., 18, 2, (5 Chadwick), Totar £5.90, DF: 52.70. CSF: £11.80.
3.40: 1. GLENIGEE (N Bendey) evers tor; 2. Erley 15-8; 3. Highland Way 7-2. 4 ran. 11., shr-hol (C M Moore). Totar £2.10. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.08. NR: Applic's Daughter. 4.10: 1. SECRET BAY IM'S Swers) 4-5 rar; 2. Up For Ransoone 9-4; 3. Cool Yalie 9-1. 5 ran. 14, 19. (C Denne). Totar £1.90; £2.20, £1.00. DF: £1.70. CSF: £3.08. 3.30: 1. MRSTER HOPATIO (Mr M Lewis)
7-2 (r-5x: 2. Greenmount Lad 9-2: 3. Wolver's Peri 6-1. 11 ras. 7-2; 4-2 the Point is (pulled up). 10, 1/4. (M Lewis). Totae 56,70; 52.10, 51.40, 52.30. OF: £12.10. CSF: £19.50. Tro: £29.60. NR: Resing San. 4.00: 1. FORBIDDEN WATERS (N. Wilsamson) 7-2; 2. If Oaly 3-1 far. 3. General Parker 16-1. 13 ran. 2, 5tt. rd. (Mess. V. Wilsamson) 7-2; 2. If Oaly 3-1 far. 3. General Parker 16-1. 13 ran. 2, 5tt. rd. (Mess. V. Wilsamson) NR: Welsh ASSE. 4.20: £2.00. £1.40, £4.20. DF: £4.40. CSF: £12.68. Ino: £83.20. NR: Welsh ASSE. 4.30: 1. KELMARKARTYRA GERI, IA Thomoni 55-2; Fondamsys 100-30 far, 3. Foliow De Call 33-1. 14 ran. 9. 3. U Parkes) Totae: £7.30; £3.30, £1.60, £12.50. DF: £8.30. CSF: £3.82. Tro: £444,70. 5.00: 1. DALLY SPORT GERI, IAIr / L. Lewethyll 3-1; 2. Gromaboo Crown 9-1; 3.

£3.08.
4.40: 1. LUNAR DANCER (K Johnson)
11-1: 2. Commet's Croft 6-1; 3. Master
Bradan 14-1. 9 ran. 7-4 lav Satpura. 20,
10. U Charton, Tobes £12-46; £2.70; £1.40,
£3.30. DF: £41.60. CSF. £73.78. That Not

Placepot: £276.90. Quadpot: £86.60. Place 6: £221.25. Place 5: £123.19. MUSSELBURGH 2.20: 1. HEAVENLY ABSTONE (I F Egan)
4-9 lar; 2. Moss Side Montoy 16-1: 3. Rock
From The Sun 9-2: 5 ran. 6, shr-hd, (P Evans).
Tota: £1.30; £1.10, £2.40, DF: £3.30, CSF:

stylish Rose 10-1. 11 ren. 4-1 fav Jendonset (Still. 2, 3. (B Llewellyn), Tolar £10,000; £3.80, £4.10, £3.10, DF; £3.20, CSF; £72.66, Tn-cast: £672.62, Trice £252.40, Jackpet: Nor won, Pool of £2,965, 11 car-ned forward to Nessmarket tods. Place 6: £51.83, Place 5: £34.17. Tota: £1.30; £1.10; £2.40, DF: £3.30; CSF: £7.98; 2.50; 1. AS-HS U Weaver) 11-10 tur; 2. Hallo Delby 10: £1.2 Sam Peeb 16: 1. 6 ran. 22: 6. (M. Johnston). Tota: £1.80; £1.10; £2.80, DF: £4.30; CSF: £12.79; 3.20; 1. JOHAYRO M. Cuhane) 5-1; 2. Able Sheriff 11-10 tur; 2. Shadow Jury 5-1; 6 ran. M. 17; U Golder, Tota: £9.50; £2.60; £1.70. DF: £5.00, CSF: £10.12; Marpile, who first-bed second was absent

Tourth.
3.50: 1. KROSNO (k Darley) 11-8 tav. 2.
Marray Grey 6-1: 3. Music Express 5-1: 6
ran. 3\*. 1\*. (S Wagars), Tota: 51-80;
51-40, 51-30. DF: £4-90. CSF: £8-50.

£1.40, £1.30, DP: £4.90, CSF: £8.50, A20: 1. SCATHEBURY, II, F310n) 5-1; 2. Bedezzle 4-1 faz; 3. Kass Altuws 6-1, 14 ran. "., rh. (K Burks), Tooir £5.80; £2.00, £2.30, £1.90, DF: £6.90, CSF: £27.66. Th. CSF: £127.7-1, Too: £84.60, 4.50: 1. TANCRED MISCHIEF (Darren Mofati) 8-1; 2. Anchorena 4-1; 3. Breydon 14-1, 9 ran. 10-11 faz Here Comos Horbie 15th. "., 6. ID Barter. Tote: £8.70; £2.40, £1.60, £5.80, DF: £1.3.90, CSF: £36.04, Yreast: £404.65, Tro: £35.80. Placeport. £55.20, Quadpot: £37.40, Placeport. £55.20. Quadpot: £37.40. Placeport. £55.20. Place \$£18.93.

SOUTHWELL 2.00: 1. DR ROUGE (A Acquir) 13-2; 2. Slozzey 3-1 far; 3. No Fidding 7-2; 11 ran, 11/L.9, (R Default Toke: 55.20; £1.40, £1.30, £1.70. DF: £10.40, £5.20; £1.40, £1.30. £1.70. DF: £10.40, £5.20; £1.40, £1.30.

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES PROLITS NEWMARKET 971 981 CHELTENHAM 972 982 973

NEWMARKET 1.05: PRAIRIE FALCON, a short-HYPERION'S ead second to Single Empire over Im 3f at Kempton recently, will hold a fitness advantage over some of tolay's rivals and should go close.

when beating Oh Nellie by three-3.16: ELEGANT WARNING, who looked a filly with a future when beating Open Credit by five lengths in a listed race over six furlongs at

to beat. Oh Nellie looks the danger.

3.45: POTEEN, half a length second to Medaaly in the Group One Racto Medaly m the Group One Rac-ing Post Trophy over a mile at Don-caster last October, has much less to do here and, although the drop back to 7f may not be entirely in his favour, it will be a big disappoint-ment if he fails to collect. Za-Im follow him home. CHELTENHAM

2.26: PRIDWELL is far superior to his two rivals, having finished sec-ond to Bimsey in the Grade One Aintree Hurdle last time. However, he will be at short odds for a horse who is sometimes reluctant to start.

2.55: This is the ideal trip for should have set a stronger pace who second to Martha's Son at Aintree last time. Viking Flagship, beaten 3½ lengths there, has a chance of re-versing places on 31b better terms. His conqueror in this race last year, Gales Cavalier, was disappo

3.30 GOOD VIBES, sometimes paced over 2m, should relish this trip and stiff track and can hold another progressive type in Friendship.

televised races

C - Cost, H - William Hill, L - Lectroles, T - Tota

colts and geldings 7f Penalty Value £4,659

ALEX SCOTT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3YO

			•	•
NEWMARK		(ete)		igs for the
5 Prairie Falcon 5 MONAASSIB (nap)	HYPERION 4.15 Darnaway 4.45 Wee Dram		Munich and h	FORM followed a Yamnouth victory last alf-length second to Darling Fla aster Monday Corrantin her.

3.10 Elegant Warning (nb) 5.20 Party Romance 3.45 Poteen GOING: Good, STALLS: 6f & 71 - stands side; rest - far side, DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

GOINER GOOT, STALLES OF & 71—stands side; rest.—tar-side, DRAW ADVANTAGES None.

Bight-hand course with im2f straight.

Course as 3W of town on A1304. Bus link from Cumbridge and Newmarket, stations.

\*ADMISSION: Cub £15 (16 to 25-year-olds £8); Grandstand & Paddock £10 (16 to 25-year-olds £8); Family Enclosure £3. CAB PARE: Members £1; remainder free.

LEADING TRANKERS WITH RUNNERS: H Cecl. — 58 winners from 237 runners gives a success ratio of 24.5% and a profit to a £1 level stabe of £21.90; J Goaden — 41 winners, 287 runners, 14.3%, -572.17; R Baunon — 39 winners, 483 runners, 8.13%, -5.22.00; B Hills — 28 winners, 246 runners, 11.4%, -5.102.26.

B LEADING JOCKEYS: Par Rédery — 99 winners, 477 rides, 20.8%, -5.35.65; L Dettori — 08 winners, 476 rides, 14.2%, -5.170.14; W R Swinburn — 44 winners, 305 rides, 14.4%, +58.17; J Reid - 34 winners, 330 rides, 10.3%, -533.19

HAND, TAG. 11; & BERL — OF WITHITS, 550 PROSS, (U.SN), —EER. 19.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Not Forgotten (visured) (2.05), Bine Goblin (4.45).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: My Melody Parkes (2.26) has been sent 213 miles by J Berry
from Cockerbern, Lunex: Carrantta (2.25) sent 204 miles by B Palling from Vistatowen; S
Glam: Plus Progr. (4.45) sent 200 miles by M. Lobrason from Michigans My Vad-

	Giant, Plan For Profit (4.45) sem 200 miles by M Johnston from Modulenam, N Yorks.			
[	2.05	APRIL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3YO 1m 4f Penalty Value £4,464	ŀ	
1		ASSURED GAMERE (Peter A Head) C Britain 9 0	,	
2	6	FLASHDALIGH? FLOOD (11) (Richard Flood Bloodstock Ltd) C Dwyer 9 0		
3	50-6	NOT FOREOTTEN (USA) (47) (Richard Tront) P Kelleway 9 C	•	
4	060-	PERSEMPS MESSION (190) (Pertemps Ltd) J Petros 9 0M Wighter 2 76	į	
5	35-2	PRAIRE FALCOK (15) (Lady Hamson) 8 Hills 9 0 Mr Hills 1 78	į	
6		SALAMAH (K Abdulla) R Charles 9 0 Pet Edday 6		
7	2.	STREET GENERAL (187) (Lucero Gauco) H Card 9 0	Ł	
8		AUTUBEN TENE (R F Sangster) P Chappin Hyern 8 9	,	
9	00-	BISQUET-DE-BOUCHE (157) (Martin Brook) R Dolen 8 9P Mandy (7) 3 58	į	

Semble, 16-1 Not Forgetien, 25-1 Pertemps Mission, 33-1 others 1998: Sherpes 3 9 0 Per Edday 7-2 (H Ceol) 10 mm

FORM GUIDE.

STREET GENERAL, a son of dual Derly hero Generous out of the Allegad mare Hotal Street, is therefore a brother to Generous (a winner at a mile and three-quarters for Henry Candy last year). Not many of Henry Ceoffs runners go off at 20-1, aspecially at Yarmouth, but this was the case with Street General when he had his only start last assess in October-Aluternate Seattle Art was 4-1 third best but finished in the ruck - and he shaped with glomes in finishing a length accord to Mandiak. He represents Ceol in preferance to two other entires. Prairie Palcon, from the Barry Hills yard successful with New Reputation in 1994, finished a 10-length fifth of 15 behind Entrepreneur at Kempton in August on the last of two juvenille attempts. This helf-brother to the useful Water Bostman was inched out by Single Empres of the same track on Easter Monday and is the obvious danger. Roger Chariton's newcorner Salamanh, a son of Sadier's Wells, is a half-brother to Sherpas (who was making his debut when winning this lest year), while the Last Tycoon filly Autanna Time could go well. FORM GUIDE

	יי	rid go we	l. Special Since	EI GENERAİF
		2.35		
ı	1	051300-	PAMELING BEAR (191) (D) (New Michael HB) M Blanshard 498	cheme 8 111
ı	2	12/1450	CAVMAN KAI (2576 AC) (I A N Width) R Hannon 4 9 6	E 1117
ı	3	03300.2	FASY DOLLAR (240 (CD) (Snor) Globy Ltd) B Gubby 5 9 2	Clark 2 B 106
ı	Ā	20172.1	Makening E Duniog 69 2	0000000 3 114
ı	5	1202204.	SNIVA PARADISE (199) (D) (Eddy Gensteed Honde) C Bildein 4 9 2	100000 7 JJZ
ı	Ğ	10044.7	CARRAMITA (15) (CD) Comb Lane Associates B Patient 7 9 1	20126497TT
١	1 7	407042	MY MEI ONY PARKES (244) (Assent Heigh)   Berry 4 & 11	<b>DESCRIPTION 30</b>
i	ģ	315155-	WELDWOOD PLOWER (178) (CD) (G Howard-Spirit) R Hannon 4 8 11 Dame	O'Not 4 110

BETTING: 5-2 Monuscells, 7-2 Copesan Kai, 9-2 Caranala, 11-2 Easy Ooliar, 8-1 Wi 9-1 Rambling Bear, 10-1 bly Motody Parkes, 18-1 Sylvan Paradise 1996: Passion For Life 3 8 5 Pot Etdery 11-4 (6 Levis) 12 on

Not August with a neck defeat in a Listed race at Rame at Redcar and he scored in good style at won in each of the five previous seasons and 14 times in all. She was better than ever last year, with victories at Beverley, Thresk, York 1.4 times in all. Safe was bearer train ever less year, with victories at Beverley, Thraik, York, and on the July Course – these of them Listed events. Bryn Pallings mare will be straighter for her three and a-half-length Warwick second to Russian Muse over Easter, Remaking Berw won three three in 1996, his best display being when defeating Hever Golf Rose a length in the Group Three King George Stakes at the big Goodwood meeting but was beatan two and a half lengths into third behind Camaritis on the July Course next time - Easy Dollar seventh of 11 – and was unplaced in both subsequent starts. Caymain Kai tackled a mile in Group One company in his three races effer winning the Free Handlago (71) at this meeting first time to last term. He scored twice at the minorium as a next-weed load of should be effect that the start was the start of the sometime of the minorium as a next-weed load and should be effirst time up last term. He scored twice at the minimum as a two-year-old and should be effactive over today's six. Easy Dollar, fourth to Passion For Life in this a year ago, tries again after a good run when beaten a couple of lengths by market lenader Royal Appleuse at Don-

caster on his return but he has not been successful since 1995. Selection: MONAASSIB				
3	3.10	NELL GWYN STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 3) £30,000 added 3YO fillies 7f £19,188		
1	1-	BAKED ALASKA (179) (C) (Civeden Stud) A Stenart 8 9		
2	104	CASHRILY DANCER (192) (Ferray Ltd) R Alphysiz 8 9		
3	11402	CONNECTARA (256) (Dr A Hallocke) C Dayer 89 Reld 7 106		
4		DAME LAURA (215) (C) (A J Morrison) H Morrison 8 9 T Quien 2 108		
5		ELECANT WARRING (171) (C) (Po Elson) B Hitc 8 9 Miles 9 109		
6		IMPERIAL SCHOLAR (234) 42 Mrs Michael (Meet) J Eustace 8 9		
7	21-	MBSS SANCERRE (168) (0) U L C Prace) G Wage 8 9 L Dettor 8 92		
B		OK MELLEE (USA) (15) (D) (M Tabor) N Calestran 8 9Pat Eddary 8 104		
9		OPEN CREDIT (171) (C) (Buckern Cel. Holdings) H Cecil 8 9		
10		RELINION (204) Glight days Thospughtheid Racing 12th J Falls 8 9		
	_	- 10 declared -		
	Tare 43.0	Clarter Hamber 7.20b Holla B.20am Carll 12.20am Larry B.4 Conserver		

c. 12-1 Mes

superiority over Open Credit, whom she trournoed by the lengths siter striking form over six on notary's track. Balload Alassian was also a winner at sat furings here on her single start to date in October when she got home by a length form Missa Sasciance livino was realizing her debut and was a three-length Linglield winner on her only other start). Dis Meillie, winner of three states at Woodbine in 1996, the last over this distance, led to the furing pole when beaten three ports of a length by the stylear-old Monsessib under a 7to-cleamer at Kempton (6f) on her British debut and should be suited by the return to this even. Conseasairs did well at two, withing her first two check before a fourth in the Queen Many end she wound up with a nack second to Carmine Lake in the Group Three Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood. However, all those stock were over the minimum and, having finished unplaced on her sole attempts at six, six mildt strusted to stay.

	-		or any right notages to stay.		41 1414114
	3.	45	NGK SPARK PLUGS STAKES (CL/ added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £4,7	ASS C) £7,500 89	
	1		POTEEN (USA) (171) (D) (Lord Vester) L Comers 9 1		
	2	1-	SUGARFOOT (250) DAIS D Waght) N Tielder 9 1		(Derley 5 68
	3	51-	Zn. #4 (173) (Harndon Af Malabum) 8 Halls 9 1		_R HES 1 93
	4		CHURCHILL'S SHADOW (Richard J Gary) B Poster 8		
•	5		SPACE RACE (R M Open) C Coper 8 11		
	-		- 5 deciseed -		

SETTINGS 4-6 Potent, 5-4 Za-im, 10-1 Segarfoot, 18-1 Space Race, 50-1 Churchill's Stanlow

FORM GUIDE

POTEEN, a 2,000 Guiness hope, has been going well at home and is poised for a winning return. Luce Cursen's US-bred got home serowly at Haydock in October on his introduction and looked home and hosed in the Recing Post Trophy only to be run out of it close by Medically, who mastered him by half a length. Sugartroot won at Ayr last July on his outling but Zs-but looks to one most likely to bustle up the selection. Zs-but look at 23-hunner Newbury malden by a couple of lengths from Sowet Star (a scorer next time) with lest monthly easy Doncaster witner Py To the Stars third. The son of Green Desert has also been called the control useful control selections of CITEDA. going well on the gallops and may be in the Guinaas live-up.

Ľ	4.10	cotts and geldings 7f Penalty Value £4,659
1	4-4	REPORT CALCULATION (USA) (15) (REF) (Abacus) P Harris 8 11
Ž	0-	SEYOND CALCULATION (USA) (US) (SF) (Abacus) P Hans 8 11
3	G-	CHAPRA (328) (Eucstat Ltd) 5 Doy 8 11
4	4-	DARWARAY (167) (Sir Dand Wiley H Cac) 8 11
<u>6</u>	2.	RIDICIAL SUPREMICY (174) (W.) Gredey) J Farstone 8 11
6		KONN (Shekh Michammath M Stocks 8 11 W R Swindows 12 MOONSHINER (USA) (18) (Baron G von Litmann) G Wage; 8 11 M Hills 5
7	022-5	MOONSHINER (USA) (19) (Baron G von Litmann) G Wage, 8 11
8	5-	REBAL THUNDER (USA) (194) (Ars R E Senin M Stock 8 11
9		SATIN STONE (USA) (Shekn Michammer) J Gosden 8 11 L Detroit 8
10	1 3.	SHAWAF (USA) (262) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Durkop 8 11R HBs 6
11		SOLAR STORM (19) (I F Hame) M Bei 8 11
12	304	ANIZALIANIERI (NZVI (1720) KLESEDLE, MAĞATI 15 (176 G 17 ************ I ANIZA 5
	TTSUD- # 4	- 12 declared -
	1966 24	Dernaway, 3-1 Shawaf, 7-1 Satia Stone, 8-1 Beyond Calculation, balicial Supremary, 10-1 Koral, Wasp Ranger, 12-1 Regal Thunder, 16-1 Broad River, 20-1 others
4	Ma Choles	20-1 Mone, wasp Kanger, 12-1 magai Injunoer, 16-1 moaid Kirez, 20-1 comes et 3 9 0 L Detron 7-2 () Gosden) 11 izm
_		EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £6,409
14	1.45	CTCO added ONO 34 Density Value CC 400
L		17,500 added 510 /f Penarty Value 15,409
1	316	REDWING (198) (D) Sir Thomas Pillingon) J Dunlop 9 7
2	23245-4	BLUE GOBLEN (USA) (15) (BP) (Shelin Mohammed) L Currani 9 4
3	13503-4	STONE FLOWER (USA) (17) IR E Sanasteri P Chaodie-Heart 9 3
4	201120	SHARP HIT (190) If C Smith R Harmon 9 1 R Hughes 8 SHALAAL (USA) (196) (Makoum Al Malooum E Duntop 8 13 D 0'Donotroe (3) 12
5	650-	SHALAAL (USA) (196) (Maléoum Al Malooum) E Durtop 8 13
В	120-	PASSIPLORA (157) (Mrs Karen Grieve (Susan Abbott Racing)) J Duntop 8 11 G Dudlield 1
?	0626-1	SHARE DELIGHT (24) (D) (A L R Montri) B Hills 8 10
8	234	SLEEPLESS (207) (Nice Autrey Scotney) N Gratam 8.9
9	243-	GREAT CRUD (159) (Seed Suhei) M Stoute 8 8
10 11	3/2-	KNYMICHO (SKIZ) UN P CONTRE IN TOTAL BEST OF STATE OF STA
11 12	34321-	JUST NICK (156) (D G Clerke) W Mur 8 7 Pet Eddery 4 WEE DRAM (20) (Boomsbury Stud) R Hannon 8 7 Dene 0'Neill 7
12 13	1004-1	AL MASSOCR (USA) (211) (Al Muslim Perneshol J Paine 8 6
15	130-	PLAN FOR PROFIT (32) (Professional Racing Permession M Johnston 8 6
16 16		CORRES (MESS (MASS (Message AR C Most of C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C
16 17	2200.0	SCHREER (QUEEN (245) (Austran AB S Woods 8 3A Clark, 1.4 SARATOGA RED (USA) (32) (89) (T Moham W O'Goman 8 1 Esama O'Goman 2
16 18		
	. 0123-	HOR FENER (USA) (17) (BF) (7) F Albort) M Bell 8 ()
25 20	. 0123	ROYAL BLACKERRO (156) (E Carter) J Barris 7 10
ĄŲ	الاستون	LIPLEN S LAD (1.7) (CECUCIE & SCIENCE PLONCAUTE LTD) 3 JETHER 7 30 CHERR 3.7
		- 20 decimes -

- 20 deciment - 20 deciment - 20 deciment - 20 deciment - 20 deciment in 1st 9th.

Minimum weight: 1st 10th. True handlage weight: Inderes had 1st 9th.

BETTING: 9-2 Shame Delight, 8-1 Stone Flower, 9-1 Hoh Flyer, Wee Dram, 10-1 Blue Goblin, Great Childt, Jost Mick, Shame Hat, 25-1 Pensilloca, Plum For Profit, Royal Blackbird, Shaland, Shame 1st, 18-1 Pensilloca, Plum For Profit, Royal Blackbird, Shaland, Shame 1st, 18-1 Pensilloca, Plum For Profit, Royal Blackbird, Shaland, Shame 1st, 18-1 Pensilloca, Plum For Profit, Royal Blackbird, Shaland, Shame 1st, 18-1 Pensilloca, Plum For Profit, Royal Blackbird, Shaland, Shame 1st, 18-1 Pensilloca, Plum For Profit, Royal Blackbird, Shaland, Sha

	~ ~ ~	HIC O G A L INCOMENTAL TALE (IN INCIDENTED TO 189)	
5	.20	MUSEUM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 : 1m 2f Penaity Value £4,854	added 3YO
1	0-	BEDOLIEN HONDA (285) (Eddy Grotested Honda) C 9rtjain 9 0	B Dovie 14
2	60-	FABLED LIGHT (167) (Moless Raping) G Wages 9 0	
3		FRIAL STAGE (R E Sengater) P Chapple-Hyam 9 ()	J Reld 13
4	8-	CARUDA (250) (Bob Demuyser) J Dunlop 9 ()	T Delem 17
Ś	-	GROUGHO (USA) (K Abdulla) R Creation 9 0	K Darley 16
Ğ	0-	KENGFISHER MILL (USA) (251) (Lord Howard de Walder) Mrs. J. Cacil 9.0	Pai Eddery 7
7	_	MONTOR (Bucksom Oak Holdings) H Card 9 0	X Robon 9
ġ	3-	NATURAL EBERT (180) (Mrs Melody Sut B Hills 9 0	R HHE 3
ē	Ď.	NOCHOL FIFTY (176) (Lloyd Bedack) M Tomplens 9 0	D Rides 15
10	0555	PADALIK (185) (G Steinberg) M Havnes 9 ()	
11	44324	PARTY ROMANCE (USA) (191) (Abdush Ali B Hanbury 9 0	
12	- D-	PUREST (158) (R Barnett) M Strute 9 0	L Dettori 18
13	45-	RECOURSE (USA) (195) (K Abdula) H Ceci 9 0	W Russ 12
14	_	SHADIANN (HI Ags Year) L Curren 9 0	O Shibban 1
15		SLIPSTREAM (Matthews Breeding and Record R Guest 9 0	G Duffield S
16	4	HIGHLY RESPECTED (25) (Conton Marson) A Bode 8 9	D White 6
17		KEENEST RELUCTANCE (W.) Gredley) J Forstowe 8 9	D Hactace 4
18		NAID OF CAMELOT (A E Oppenhamen) R Charlon 89	T Secake 11
		45 4s-1	

T Sprake 11

- 18 declared 
BETTING 3-1 Mooker, 4-1 Netwerl Eight, 11-2 Perty Researce, 8-1 Final Stage, Garade, Porist, 10-1 King-fisher NE, Recourse, 12-1 Fabled Light, 14-1 Grouche, Shediare, 16-1 Highly Respected, 20-1 others 1990: Doesly 3 9 0 Per Eddery 8-1 (H Cecil) 16 can

LARKSHILL ENGINEERING GOLDEN MILLER HANDICAP 4.00 CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m 2f 110yds £4,879

	<u> </u>
ALTERNATION OF THE PARTY OF THE STATE OF THE	West of the second seco
(2) (15) [2] (2) (2) (2) (2) (3) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4	The state of the s
i "	HYPERION
ľ	
2.20 Pridwell	4.00 Denver Bay
2.55 Strong Promise	4,35 Normarange
2.55 Strong Fromuse	5.10 Chief Mouse
2 20 Cood Vibes	TITE CIRCL MORSE

3.30 Good Vibes

GOING: Good to Firm (watering).

Leil-hank, galloping course with still fences, Uphill run-in of 240yd.

Leil-hank, galloping course with still fences, Uphill run-in of 240yd.

Leil-hank, galloping course with still fences, Uphill run-in of 240yd.

Leil-hank, galloping course with still fences, Uphill run-in of 240yd.

Leil-hank, galloping course with still fences. Uphill run-in of 240yd.

Leil-hank, galloping course with still fences. Uphill run-in of 240yd.

Birminghum and Landon, Paddington) 3m. ADMISSION: Club & Tamersolls combined \$12 (juniors, 1624 years, 58); Coursege Enclosure Eb. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TEANNESS WITH RUNNESS: M Fipe — 36 winners from 269 numers gives a success ratho of 12.5% and a lors to a 51 level stake of 563.49; D Nicolson — gives a success ratho of 12.5% and a lors to a 51 level stake of 563.49; D Nicolson — gives a success ratho of 12.5% and a lors to a 51 level stake of 563.49; D Nicolson — 26 winners, 127 runners, 127 runners, 16.5%, +518.10; O Sherwood — 15 winners, 71 runners, 22.1%, 56.76.

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durawoody — 43 winners, 231 rides, 18.6%, +59.11; J Osborne — 30 winners, 186 rides, 16.1%, 4-22.03; N Williamson — 25 winners, 115 rides, 12.1%, 584.71.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lance Armatrong (viscord), Silver Thyme (3.30).

WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Richards (3.30) sem 197 rules by T rules by W Camminghain Long-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Richards (3.30) sem 197 rules by T rules by W Camminghain, N Yorks; Eoyal Varsation (4.00) sem 196 rules by G M Moore from Middleham, N Yorks.

2.20 MITTE GROUP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £5,434

- 5 declared -BETTING: 1-6 Pricinell, 11-2 Mithrate, 8-1 Handy Lees 1998; Hoos And Pops 9 11 3 R Durascotly 5-1 (R Ainer) 4 ran

PREDMITELL gave away a lot of ground at the start of the Buls Hurdle here first time up this season, but his most exent enfort, when second to Binnsay in the Mariell Amine Hurdle, season, but his most exent enfort, when second to Binnsay in the Mariell Amine Hurdle, season, but his taters. Undoubtedly something of a character, he has nevertheless run some undertones his taters. Undoubtedly something of a character, he has nevertheless run some of his better reces here and, strictly on form, he is in a different league to Netherlae and of his better reces here and, strictly on form, he is in a different league to Netherlae and of his better reces here and, strictly on form, he is in a different league to Netherlae and the first time up that then dodging the saus on to chapting duries early last season, warning here first time up but then dodging the saus on to chapting duries early last season, warning here first time up but then dodging the saus on the heat two starts. It is difficult to imagina a rugby-scrum of purities lean to buy money on the heat two starts. It is difficult to imagina a rugby-scrum of purities lean to buy money on the heat two starts. It is difficult to imagina a rugby-scrum of purities lean to buy money on the heat two starts. It is difficult to imagina a rugby-scrum of purities lean to buy money on the least two starts. FORM GUIDE

		•	
. [	55 FAUCETS FOR MIRA S	HOWEDS TROOPLY OUASE	Frie a 1
2	55 ICLASS AV (Scarle 2) 53	1000 added 2m 5f £18,840	14
-	21A152 STRONG PROMISE (11) (C) (BP) (		
2	232230 GALES CAVALLER (11) (CD) (See	ant Record D Cardollo 9 11 4	R Democdy
3	2-24133 VEKING PLAGSEEP (11) (C) (Roach	Foods Limited D Nicholson 10 11 4	R Johnson
4	UD-03PP CELTIC LARD (34) (Simon T Levis		_DJ Berchell
	- 4 - MiG: 4-5 Strong Promise, 8-4 Viting Flags	inclured – No. 11.3 Calan Counting 150.4 Calif.	. 1 - 1 - 1
199	R: Gales Cavelier 8 11 4 M Divier 7-1 (D Gar	ndoffol 3 Rin	

0-121 1122

1996: MS

(CLASS A) (Grade 2) £30,000 added 2m 5f £18,840	CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m 2f 110yds £4,879
Ad52 STRONG PROMISE (11) [C] (SP) (5 A Hibbert) G Hibbert 6 11 7 N Williamson 2230 GALES CAVALLER (11) (CO) (Straight Recing 0 Gambile 9 11 4 R Destronedy 4133 WIRMS FLAGSLERP (11) (C) (Rosch Foots Lanted 0 Nicholson 10 11 4 R Johnson GSP CELTIC LARKO (34) (Simon 1 Lowe) D Burchell 9 11 0 D J Burchell — 4 declared — 2 4-5 Strong Promise, 8-4 Wiring Flagship, 11-2 Gales Cavaller, 150-1 Cettle Lakel Lakel Cavaller 8 11 4 M Dayer 7-1 (D Gandafol 3 ran	1 0125-6P JAMES PIGG (35) (C) (Beginse Partnership) P Michalls 10 11 13 R Diamondry P 1414P MISSTAWFASHI (21) (D) P RD Posteners 11th D Michalson 11 11 9 R Diamondry 3 655141 DENVER BAY (21) (B) Majori J Gifford 10 11 7 L Apple (3) 4 571-2230 COMPREN MINE (81) (D) U Dougolly O Shewood 11 11 5 J Osbonne 5 31P123 ROVAL VACCHION (15) (D) (G) P Colorado S M Moore 8 11 2 J Calleghor 6 131417 FURMSY RIVINITIA (22) (C) (D) MA H Weston 11 11 11 2 Mr M Harris 7 11261P GOD SPEED YOU (88) (Wallop) C Mortock 8 10 10 R Kimernagh B
FORM GUIDE	8 12-4435 LE MENLE (45) (C) (D) (N ) Machel) K Burke 8 10 9
I Durwoody committed himself to Gales Cavaller, at a time when David Nicholson decided whether to run Viding Flagship, so the joddey arrangements may not be of galicance. In any case, STROMG PROMISE is preferred after his Mumm Melling sec	9 3UPS12 866 BBM DINN (89) (0) (Upbroids Boodsock) C Brooks 11 10 7
Marths's Son, on which occasion Villeng Flagship was 31/1 lengths adrift. Strong Promise worst of the anaument when they congested the Queen Mother Champion Chase	Minimum weight: 10st True hundicap weight: Forgrove 8st 8to.
ely, although his blunder of the third last had much to do with that, Still, Viking Flag-	BETTME: FORECAST: 4-1 Royal Vecation, 9-2 Degree Bay, 11-2 Mustherseawig, 6-1 Fisney Truth, 8-1 Big Ben Dun, 9-1 Copper Mine, 10-1 James Pigg, Suffolk Road, 12-1 Le Melle, 14-1 God Speed
ot on gamely to be third to Martha's Son at Cheltenham after stumbling on the final	You, 16-1 Fonetire
pales Caveller cannot be ruled out with confidence, even after failing to win in his six a starts this term. Cettle Leint is out of his depth. Selections STRONG PROMISE	4000 Board Co. D 44 2 14 4 Downwell 7 2 6 15to 7 mg
EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE FINAL (CLASS A) (Gradie 3) £25,000 2m 4f £16,200  2151 SPRING BALE (KS) ER (M Cash), B End, P May, M Moorel O Sterwood 611. 2 J Osborne 2221 GOOD VEES (LS) (G E Stouen T Esseby 5 11 11  ATT FREDENSKE (SS) (T Berliet) and Mr W Browni N Hendeson 5 11. 7  M A Finapsald ALC FINALSY LINE (LS) (P) (EF) (Nn P Sterliet) P Weather 6 11. 4  A Thornton 2211  LANCE ARMISTRONIC (SS) (D) (EF) (Nn P Sterliet) P Weather 6 11. 4  A Thornton 2211  LANCE ARMISTRONIC (SS) (D) (EP) (Nn P Sterliet) P Weather 6 11. 4  D Portit (S) V  D Portit (S) V  D Portit (S) V  D Portit (S) V  D STABLING (SS) (SS) (Nn P Etter Gregion R Buckler 7 10.3  S McMolli  R(21) SEABROOK LAD (LS) (Seebanck Patrines) Mr Winfrom 6 10.0  W Marston  - 8 declared -	CHRENCESTER NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000   added 2m 5f Penalty Value £4,280   34221 DECYBORG FRO LIS (D) flery Nell M Poe 6 11 10
y beight: 10st True handcap weight: Sashrook Lad 9st 8th. 2-9.1 Friendship, 9-2 Silver Tigme, 11-2 Pantasy Line, 8-1 Good Vibes, 7-1 Sashrook Lad, us, 8-1 Spring Baile, 10-1 Lance Armstong, 16-1 Rhythm And Bines iss Chairnes 8-9 11 R Juttspn 9-1 (D Natholson) 10 on	5.10 STOKE ORCHARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 4YO 2m 4f Penalty Value £4,788
EXEM GINE	1 3212 GRE AND TAKE (13) (BF) Platson, Neuman and Moson) M Pipe 11 10
OOK LAD coped well with fast ground at Huntington last time, He had earlier run in ster quartier for this series in which he was seven and a half lengths admit of Pricod- fice has done well stree, winning at Windsor and Sandown, but a now 21th worse in, ok Lad hear been a creditable fourth behind Agistment, Mighty Moss and Barton Ward gast in December when locking more backward than those three. Partially Link gives instance of hears hear in the must while Lanca Amistoate could also do with more	3 2106P1 CHIEF MOLISE (27) (Bill Georgi F Jordan 11 4 P Carberry 4 800331 NOBEL COLOUNES (15) [S G Gerifaria S Gerifars 10 13 Jain A Weble (7) 5 POUC2 ARROGANT MER (15) [O H Brown I D Brown 10 5 Pouce 10 5 Pouce 10 5 Pouce 10 5 Pouce 10 P F Morror D Williams 10 0 Mr S Demack (7) 6 203005 STERLING PELLOW (15) (P F Morror D Williams 10 0 Mr S Demack (7) 6 Geolared P Pouce 10 Pouce 10 P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P
the ground. Good Vibes has been doing welf over shorter trips, but he is a son of and so could be difficult to best over the estra half-mile. He is feared along with SB- me. Selection: SEABROOK LAD	BETTING: 9-4 Give And Take, 3-1 Squire's Occasion, 100-30 Nighte Colours, 4-1 Chief Moose, 7-1 Arragant Hair, 14-1 Starting Fellow 1996; Ramsdens 4-10 0 C Lienestyn 7-2 (N Tesson-Osues) 5 r an

2.10 Anna Solell 2.45 Spring To It 3.20 Born to Please 3.50 Country Lover 4.25 Pond House 5.00 Denomination

Dendee (2.10) won at Fourstell on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNESS: Time Leader (5.00)
bits been sent 150 miles by R Dickin from Straifordipns-Augn, Warwieledure.

2.10 HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 4YD 2m 2f US1 AMMA SOLEL (15) 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_ D Thereses
AMMA SOLEL (15) 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_ A P McCoy V
OL SPENCER STALLONE (15) 10 12 \_\_\_\_ D Safter (5)
OU ROYAL MEMBER (17) 10 7 \_\_\_\_\_ E Syme - 4 declared BETTNIC 4-5 higher Dundon, 11-10 hasa Sololl, 25-1 Spencer
Stalloon, 33-1 Royal Member

2.45 NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 = 4 declared = 2ETTRIC: 7-4 Spring To R, 15-8 Trust Deed, 4-1 Eithe Cov-ernor, 9-2 swips Chatchigh

631 SEVSO (15) R Bater 8 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ V Stattery 403 CASTLECOMMER (12) 8 10 0 \_Mr A Holdoworth B

Cystel, 9-2 Barn To Pisses, 13-2 Seesa, 20-1 Castleanum Mortin Pipe continues his quest to go through the card with a representative in every race at Extrem today. His runners are: Major Dundee, Spring In II, Northern Starlight, Country Lover, Pond House and Denomination.

3.20 HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 3.50 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 8 added 2m 3f 110yds 1 441 COUNTRY LOVER (13) (CD) 6 11 6 \_A P McCoy V 2 550 CARNIVAL CLOWN (286) 5 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_R Greene 9 FP5 TANGUTS DELIMINI LANGUT AND ON THE STREET OF T 5.00 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' H'CAP -5 declared 
-5 declared 
BETTING: 1.8 Country Lover, 3-1 Tommy Cooper, 20-1 Carnival Clover, 26-1 Deceit The Second, Morecura 4.25 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 1 1PU POWD HOUSE (12) 8 11 10 2 E23 MAMMYS CHOICE (24) 7 11 7 3 14P MILLES OWN (146) (2) 10 116... 5,000 added 2m 3f 1.10/08
1PI Pole House 123 8 11 10 — A P McCoy
1PI Pole House 123 8 11 10 — A P McCoy
123 MARKIYS CHOICE 124 7 11 7 — J Caleby
1.4P MSLIES OWN (1.48) (G) 10 11 6 — G Yerney
143 HEBLEY RESIGN, (1.52) (C) 9 11 6 ... 8 Devroop
221 MR PLATICUL (25) (C) 7 11 4 — P Hobey
102 TOOBBUCH TOOSOON (S) 9 11 1 — C Hamde -

OFO CHILL HEIGHTS #6) 7 10 4 .......# G Up The Tempo Set 7st, Progeson Set Bib, Station Express Set, BETING: 8-11 Miss En., 9-2 Communicing Cross, 11-2 Times Louder, 7-1 Demonstration, 10-1 Up The Yompo, 18-1 others

\* THE INDEPENDENT

Uswellyn) 8-1; 2. Cromaboo Crown 5 Stylish Rose 10-1. 11 ran. 4-1 fav. Jen

■ Jacqui Oliver was knocked uncon-scious for over a minute when taking a fall from Red Oassis at Southwell yes-terday. She had come round before be-

ing taken to hospital equipped with a neck brace. Tony Dobbin expects to be riding again by Thursday after injuring his shoulder in a fall at Hexham.

## The French gave us the most to admire this season, the Welsh were not far behind but can Fran Cotton please be quiet?

The first season of professional rugby union has been full of inter-the fast trains stop there. Leicester's est. The consequences have not all been benign. On the whole, money has done the talking. Who would have thought, a few seasons ago, that Saracens would be riding high, and Llanelli struggling – even if the last few games played by both clubs suggest that, though money may be useful, it cannot buy everything? Here,

anyway, are a few awards: Club of the season: There is no question at all in my mind. It is Brive. The full name of the town is Brive-le-Gaillard, or Brive-the-Gaillant, a title fully justified. Some of the Eng-lish reports have suggested that it is a one-horse sort of place, well off the beaten track. Not so. It is on the main

disappointing performance in the European Cnp final at Cardiff should not, however, lead us to conclude that top French club rugby is superior to the English variety. After all, Toulouse were convincingly defeated in the same competition, first by Wasps and then by Leicester.

The runners-up in this section are Sale, who would be the outright winners if I had not thrown the competition open to European clubs. Country: France. When the French management team, Jean-Claude Skrela, Pierre Villepreux and Jo Maso, accompanied by the French captain, Abdel Benazzi,

entered the Twickenham press con-

ference after their win over England, the French journalists broke into spontaneous applause. This was unprofessional but understandable.

England put up some fine per-formances in the last quarter but were unable to do so against France. The team that came nearest to beating them in the Five Nations were Wales in Paris.

But the runner-up award goes not to England or Wales but to Italy, who beat France at Grenoble and did enough in the rest of their matches to earn admission to a new Six Nations' Championship.

Player: Christian Lamaison, of Brive and France, who kicked all his goals and did not miss any tries. I did not approve of his charge on



orse episodes during the season. Runner-up: Allan Bateman, of Richmond and Wales, who looked dangerous whenever he had the ball

did not. I am not including Gary Connolly, of Harlequins, because he did not play a full season, returning to Wigan in the new year. Otherwise he would be contesting Bateman's

Most promising newcomer: A good selection, with Denis Hickie and Eric Miller from Ireland, Austin Healey and Richard Hill from England, and Ilom Smith from Scotland. Four of these are off to South Africa with the Lions. But I am choosing someone who was not chosen for the trip and, because of injury, did not manage a full season for his country. Colin Charvis, of Wales. It is not altogether fanciful to think that, if both Charvis and Bateman had

uncanny positional sense, when he been available throughout the season, Wales would have won two or three of their matches rather than the one they managed.

Least defensible decision: Jack

Rowell's, to leave Jeremy Guscott on the substitutes' bench throughout the Five Nations. Whenever he came on he lit up the game. Once Phil de Gianville had been chosen as Will Carling's successor, a controversial though defensible decision, the logical solution was to play him and Gus-cott in their normal club positions, rather than to force Carling into the side in an unfamiliar position.

Loudmouth: Fran Cottou. Most worrying development: The penalty try, closely followed by the dangerous tackle.

died of a heart attack in September 1996. Clem was as fearless a murnalist as he had been a flanker. His finest hour as a journalist was, I thought, when he denounced the management of the 1977 Lions in New Zealand, telling the truth but risking several friendships. He would have been encouraged by Wales' per-

formance and delighted by France Possibly he was held in higher n gard in that country, where he had a small house in the Medoc, than he was in his own native land. We drank many a bottle of the wine of that region on May expeditions to watch the semi-finals of the French cup. He was a marvellous companion and a

### **Buxton** behind Chinese wall

Ken Jones on a man who learned his football in south-east London and is now passing on his know-how and rhyming slang in the Far East

f all the things Ted Bux-ton has imagined doing in his life, acting as a consultant to the Chinese Football Association certainly was not

Apart from anything else, his past experiences include a spell as an infantryman seeking out Chinese insurgents in the Malaysian jungle. Indeed, Buxton sometimes reflects on the probability that he once picked off representatives of the regime under which his employers operate.
While Buxton's memories of

warfare are not introduced lightly, they make his appointment ironic. "It's impossible to be in China and not think about those days," he said last week when we met up in London.

Buxton, who used to be part of England's coaching and scouting set-up, will shortly be back in Peking helping China prepare for World Cup Asian Group Eight qualifying match-es against Vietnam, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan that could lead to an encounter with Australia, who are now under the instruction of his close friend, Terry Venables.

"We're good enough to make the Oceanic Group, but that's likely to be the end of it because Terry's team look in great shape should reach the finals," Buxton said. He was introduced formally to the Chinese in Peking last summer, when sent on reconnaissance by Venables before England played a warm-up match prior to the European Championship.

It began a period of Buxton's career in football that can be loosely described as hilarious. 'Terry was right to be worried about the pitch because it was bloody awful," Buxton said. The Chinese promised that everything would be put in order after a couple of games over the weekend, but when I went back on the Monday nothing had been done.

"When I saw the surface, holes everywhere, I blew up. When I asked to see the He eventually showed up on a bike. I called him a lazy bastard, and said that unless he got off his fat arse, England would cancel the game. Within an hour, 150 coolies were at work on the pitch."

In response to questions put at a news conference shortly afterwards, Buxton confirmed that Venables would resign as the England coach at the end of Euro 96. "They asked what I intended doing and, jokingly, I said that I might come back and work in China. The next thing I was offered work by clubs in Peking and Shanghai. Eventually there was an approach from the national

'If they don't measure up to set standards, they're out. It would horrify our players

federation and, after talking to Terry, I accepted.

Buxton had come a long from south-east London and a moderate playing career with Millwall and in the Kent League, before working at Gillingham and in the United States at Tampa Bay. He had served as the chief scout at Tottenham under David Pleat and Peter Shreeve, later forming an alliance with Venables that was renewed at national level.

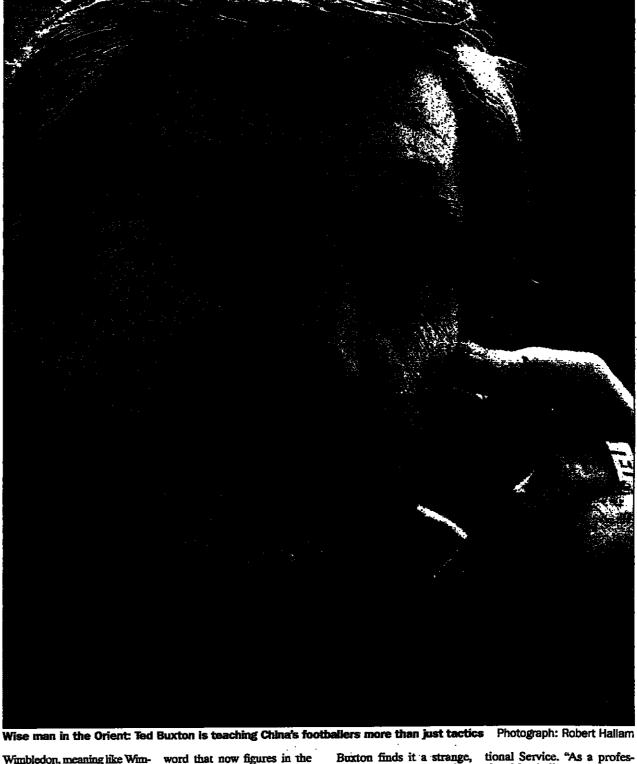
Now Buxton was in Peking, living in a hotel room and relying on an interpreter to put his points forward. Buxton, in some moods, likes to deprecate the importance of his appointment. although it is naturally impossible to deprecate anything without mentioning it. He does not wish it to obscure many huwhile I discovered that a couple of players speak English and one of them, a goalkeeper I only know as 'O', had picked up my when he came in after a match and said: Ted, I'm f\*\*\*ing cream-crackered'."

Nothing much is as Buxton imagined. One of the things he had to jump on was smoking in the dressing-room at half-time. Not the players, but the coaches. When I opened the door you couldn't see or breathe properly in there," he said. The chief coach and his two assistants were puffing away, so were the physiotherapists, or doctors as they call them. We were two down and the players were sitting there dejected, heads in hands, having their lungs poliuted. I put a stop to that, but in other ways the Chinese are very professional."

The national team is drawn from China's 12 leading clubs whose players must prove their fitness pre-season at a spartan training camp. "It's murder," Buxton said. "They run 10,000 metres a day and are put through routines while doctors stand alongside taking blood from their ears. If they don't measure up to set standards, that's it, they're out. It really is hard, a bloody boot camp that would horrify our players."

Buxton's original brief - he has a contract until the end of June - was to put China on course for the 2002 World Cup. but success in the recent Dunhill Cup tournament has heightened expectations. China, in competition with Bosnia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam, won all their matches, scoring 13 goals with only two against. "It caused a great deal of excitement," Buxton added, "and proved to me that they are quick learners. The leading players get good money, even by our standards, and are very receptive."

One of the things Buxton managed to get across in time for the Dunhill tournament -China were put out at the quarter-final stage of the Asian Cup - is that football tactics are not morous experiences. "After a set in stone. In doing so, he realised again that examples can lead to confusion, "One day, when we were behind at halftime, I said that there are times told me that it was his day off. rhyming slang. I found out when you have to play like midgets is bollocks [another cult to beat."



Wimbledon, meaning like Wimbledon used to. They looked at me with blank faces because the name, never mind the idea, didn't mean anything to them. But they watch a lot of our football and know all the leading players, Gazza especially. They all want to know about him."

An interesting thing, you may think, is the number of tall players China can call upon. The idea that they are all

word that now figures in the team's burgeoning English vocabulary]," Buxton said. "They have some big guys and are now making better use of them at set-pieces. That's mainly what I do with them, updating their awareness of things that are natural to players in other countries, getting the shape right, putting the tactics in order. They have plenty of technical ability and have become diffi-

lonely life. For a while he had Jimmy Rimmer over as a goalkeeping coach, but spends a lot of time in his own company. The philosophy of a natural itinerant stands him in good stead, and he stays in touch with Venables.

One of the many experi-ences in his life to which Buxton refers in ordinary conversation is that perilous stint in Malaya when on Na-

sional footballer, I expected to get a cushy number, instead I was sent to the 3rd West Kents an ended up out there with a gun in my hand getting shot

When David Pleat once asked Buxton if he had killed anybody, he replied in the affirmative. Understandably, that does not figure in conversations over the crispy duck

cup form. With games in hand

on most of their promotion

rivals, the Spireites retain an

outside chance of qualifying

for the play-offs. However, a

run-in of eight games in 19 days,

beginning at Brentford tonight.

suggests that Chesterfield's final

League position will better re-

flect their level of endurance

Such congestion pales into in-

significance when compared with

what Dagenham and Redbridge.

of the ICIS League Premier Di-

vision, face in the remaining

three weeks of their season.

Their progress to the semi-final

in the afternoon: riding, boxing, feacing and the so-called noble

to the liking of a player who

once commanded a world

The life of a substitute is not

arts.

rather than their skill.

### Nicholl rejects Raith's \* offer

**ROB McLEAN** 

Jimmy Nicholl yesterday revealed why he could not be tempted back to Stark's Park as Raith Rovers' manager after the sacking of his friend lain

Raith, close to being relegated to the Scottish First Division, sacked Munro yesterday morning after just seven months in charge. Munro had rejected an invitation to resign with more than two years left on his

Raith then offered the job u a caretaker basis to Nicholi. who led the club to their only trophy win in 1994 when they beat Celtic in the Coca-Cola Cup and qualified for the Uefa

Cup.
But Nicholl, who went back to Raith as Munro's non-contract assistant after his departure from Millwall, refused even though Munro urged him to take the job. Coaches Steve Kirk and Miodrag Krivokapic are in charge for the last three

games of the season.
"The club has had two managers in 12 years in Frank Connor and myself and then four in the past 14 months (Nicholl, Jimmy Thomson, Tommy an and Munro), Nicholi said. "There is a common denominator there and I wasn't prepared to stick around although it would have been easy to go in for the last three games

retire

and see what happened.

But there was no way? could do it for a few reasons. Among them was the fact that I had been in there to help Iain.

"I was expecting after losing 5-0 to Motherwell on Saturday that they would ask me to leave. The club is victually in the First Division again and I came in with Iain to try and keep them

"What I wasn't expecting was them to sack Jain. Nor was I then expecting them to ask me to take the job. I couldn't do that and I saw the conditions lain was working within."

Munro revealed that the chairman, Danny Penman, asked if he had "had enough" on the pavement at Fir Park of-ter Saturday's 5-0 defeat Motherwell, even though he still had more than two years of a contract to run.

"I asked if they had had enough of me as manager of Raith Rovers and he told me I had been a failure which I

don't accept," Munro said.
"Raith were bottom of the table when I took over and it is not as if I had spent a million on new players. I'd no cash to spend and when we did bring in Soren Andersen and Kent Bergersen on loan we picked up points.

"The board just couldn't give me cash to give the players who were there the lift a couple of new faces could bring. I don't blame the Raith players and the fans were very patient in a frustrating time. I don't think my reputation or credibility has been damaged by this but

think the club's has." Munro revealed he told Nicholl yesterday to take the job if asked and not to concern himself with what might be said.

"I knew people would say Jimmy was sitting on my shoulder but it wasn't like that. I told him to take the job if he wanted it and not to bother about what might be said by those on the outside."

Nicholl fell out with Penman towards the end of 1995 which led to the former Northern Ireland international quitting for Milwall.

Penman was not supposed to still be at Stark's Park after agreeing to step down earlier this year with a scrap merchant, Willie Gray, expected at take over. But a special extraordinary general meeting was cancelled and he remained in charge.

### Boro's fixture pile-up is bad but Dagenham's is worse

Jon Brodkin

The severe fixture congestion which is threatening to engulf Middlesbrough's bid to avoid relegation eased marginally yesterday, in spite of confirmation from the Premier League that an extension to the season was out of the question. The Middlesbrough manager,

Bryan Robson, had feared that his side would face five games in the last nine days of the season after Chesterfield's late equaliser in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final. Next Tuesday's replay means their League game at Tottenham, due to be played on Monday, has

SO LITTLE TIME AND SO MANY MATCHES FOR SO MANY TEAMS FA Carling Premiership

LVERPOOL: Temorrow: Everon (a); 18 April: Manchester United (in); 24 April: Paris St-Germain (b); 6 May: Winters Cup); 3 May: Totterham (b); 6 May: Winterson (a); 11 May: Sheffield Wednesday (a). Sections in 15 due:

MANCHESTER UNITED: 19 April: Liverpool (at; 23 April: MANCHESTER UNITED: 19 April: Liverpool (ar; 23 April: Borussia Mönchengladbach (h., European Cup); 3 May: Licester (a) 6 May: Middlesbrough (h); 8 May: New-castle (h); 11 May: West Ham (h), Sk games in 22 days MIDDLESBROUGH: Tomorrow: Lecester (Coca-Cola Cup final replay); 19 April: Sonderland (h); 22 April: Chesterfield (hA Cup semi-final replay); 3 May: Aston Villa (h); 6 May: Manchester Unsed (h); 8 May: Blockbum (a); 11 May: Leeds (a); TBA: Rottenham (a). Eight games in 22 days

to be fitted into an over-busy

The Premier League said yesterday that the game would be played on the Thursday or

Italian imports, Vialli, who

spent Sunday's FA Cup semi-fi-nal twiddling his thumbs on the

bench, reveals in Esquire that

the "whole game is harder" in

Sk gemes in 25 days
WIMBLEDON: Tomorrow: Leeds (h); 19 April: Sheffield
Wednesday (a); 22 April: Cheisee (h); 3 May: Notikus

Nationwide League
Second Division
CHESTERFIELD: Today: Brentford lat: 19 April: Milred (th); 22 April: Milred (th); 22 April: Milred (th); 25 April: Milred (th); 26 April: Milred (th); 30 April: Bristol City (a); 3 May: Notes County (h). Eight games in 19 days.

April: Crestoried (a); 3 Mary Limit (a), St garpes in the Crestoried (a); 3 Mary Limit (a), St garpes in the Crestoried (a); 3 Mary Limit (a), St garpes in the Crestoried (a); 3 Mary Limit (a), St garpes in the Crestoried (a); 24 April: Crestoried (a); 25 April: Crestoried (a); 26 April: Crestoried (a); 27 April: Crestoried (a); 28 April: Crestoried (a); rather than during an already three matches in seven days, let three days between matches against Georgia at Wembley on hectic final week. alone five, he said. "Players only once after tomorrow's 30 April. need at least 48 hours to recover Coca-Cola Cup final replay pending fixture pile-up was and that is a medical fact"

against Leicester. That comes

Chesterfield's hopes of at-

taining promotion from the Second Division have also been of the FA Trophy has left them be played on the Thursday or placing an undue burden on his The Middlesbrough squad during England's preparation Second Division have also been of the FA Trophy has left the Friday following the cup replay team. I don't think you can play will have a break of more than for their World Cup qualifier hampered by their impressive with 10 matches in 18 days.

#### Vialli experiences hard labour among England's bonecrushers After winning the European and so on - and to train my body



Gianluca Vialli's years as Ju- England. He also accuses playventus' leading striker saw him ers of setting out to injure opcaught between a rock and ponents. hard place every working day in Serie A, but the attentions of

It may be that the 32-year-old Vialli is feeling his age, but the some of the most uncomprorigours of playing here has left a mark, especially as he feels mising defenders in the world that referees do not give the protection they should. "English football is harder on do not compare with his experiences in the Premiership. The first of Chelsea's three

an athletic level," be said. "Referees never seem to blow their whistles, so the tackles are but when it comes to excite-harder. The whole game is but when it comes to excite-ment, not even Juve's Delle Alpi whistles, so the tackles are harder. Every week someone is can rival match days in England.

Robson claimed the im-

Nick Duxbury on the Italian striker feeling the pain of the Premiership

hurt, someone breaks his leg, or splits open his head. There's more fair play in Italy; no one sets out to jeopardise another footballer's career." Playing against Leeds was like "playing rugby" for the shaven-headed former international,

'Although the technical standard is not as high as in Italy, the atmosphere in the stadium is more entertaining and relaxed," he said "Supporters drink beer before the game, have a good time only shout to support their team. In Italy we feel tension coming from the terraces We know anything can happen if we make a mistake."

Cup last season, a trot out at Wembley in the FA Cup final on 17 May would be the perfect end to the first bloom of Vialli's romance with the capital. However, he will not stay at the end of his three-year contract.

"I truly love London, but I will be going back to Italy," he says in the latest issue of the magazine. And what will he do in retirement? "I would like to train my mind in the morning - studying Latin, Greek, arts

record fee of £12.5m, but he is content to bide his time. "It would be stupid to be unhappy just because I'm not playing much," he said. "I know football and I know that it goes up and down. I'm sure that the good times will come again."

المكذا من الأصل

### Schumacher Jnr makes a significant impact

DAVID TREMAYNE

"I quite like the look of the Jordan, it's a nice little car. And I have to say that I would be surprised if it didn't win a race this season.'

Those words belonged not to the colourful self-publicist, Eddie Jordan, but to the quietlyspoken Patrick Head, the architect of Williams-Renault's hnical superiority and a man who knows how many beans make five when it comes to racing car design.

Head's words had a pre- bearing the distinguished name, science that at one stage seemed likely to be justified sooner than expected, as Michael Schumacher's brother Ralf forced the pace of the Argentinian Grand Prix in Buenos Aires and put the eventual winner Jacques Villeneuve under serious pressure before dropping back slightly to finish in third place.

There is a saying in the For-mula One paddock that Ralf is so arrogant that even Michael notices, and certainly self-confidence is not missing from his make-up. And, as befits one

controversy was part of the best race of his life. But, without question, Mr and Mrs Schumacher's younger son earned the right to be regarded as a grand prix star in his own right on Sunday afternoon.

Gary Anderson, the technical director at Jordan, for whom Michael made his startling Formula One debut at the Belgian Grand Prix in 1991 before being snapped up by Benetton, said even before Argentina that he believes Ralf is better at this stage of his career than Michael was when he graduated.

director, has a slightly more reserved view, but the gist is not

"Ralf is his own character, and I think he drove a very good race," Foster said. "A podium finish in only your third grand prix is pretty good going. He's very strong mentally, and he's here to do the job. That's all we can ask. Sure, he's made a few mistakes, he's finding the limits, and there have been some spins, but that's what the job is all about.

"He's 18 months younger than Michael was at the same

Trevor Foster, Jordan's race stage of his career, and Michael had the benefit of that extra maturity and a couple of seasons racing in the professional at-mosphere of Mercedes-Benz's sportscar team. Just over a year ago, Ralf was still racing in For-

mula Three." Foster added: "I said to Eddie when he signed him that I didn't think Ralf was at Michael's level, and that it would take three months, or six months, depending on how he applied himself. And I have to say that he's doing that very

Schumacher Inr's equally

promising team-mate, the young Italian driver, Giancar-io Fisichella, does not share the launches a new car. enthusiasm after being pushed off by Schumacher as they contested second place on Sunday.
"I am very angry but we have discussed the matter within the

team." Fisichella said. Schumacher himself was publicly unmoved, but Eddie Jordan said: "He admits that he made a mistake, and he was very clear about it. Very correct." The Argentinian Grand prix

was Jordan's 100th and so far. despite regular pre-season potential, the team has manifest-

its founder promises every time

This year, however, Jordan seems to have just the right technical package, with Anderson's latest chassis propelled by the powerful Peugeot V10 engine which Alain Prost's team will use in 1998. Schumacher is already displaying the same aggressive determination that marked out his elder sibling and, the incident with Fisichella apart, he drove an intelligent race on Sunday afternoon to open his world championship

Rugby League

Bradford Bulls' Wembley plans

were thrown into disarray yesterday when Robbie Paul was

called up for New Zealand's Super League Test against Australia on 25 April, a week be-

fore the Challenge Cup final.

Although Paul is named only as a substitute, the loss of their

nfluential half-back and captain in the week leading up their Cup final re-match with St Helens is

He will miss Bradford's

atches against Halifax on 23

April 23 and Sheffield four days

hir ide s Cup preparations.

of Wigan, who elected not to

play for New Zealand last year.

will start the Test match at full-

back in place of the injured cap-

Henry is currently out of the

Wigan side with a back injury

terday he said he would be resur a full training a Weduc manu could play

stained on Good Friday. Yes-

tain, Matthew Ridge.

er before flying back to resume

an unwelcome intrusion.

mechanics withdrew from the pit wall, rather than giving Schumacher the traditional congratulatory salute.

Some say there was a dispute with Jordan over bonus money, others that the last time a Jordan was running third, at Hun-gary in 1995 when the mechanics were ready to celebrate, it ground to a halt 100 metres short of the finish line -so a superstition had to be laid to rest.

Either way, if Sunday was a valid guide, it is a problem that

The former Castleford loose forward Tawera Nikau, now with Cronulia Sharks, returns to

the Test side, replacing the in-

jured Logan Swann.
David Ward has resigned as

coach of Featherstone Rovers

after two and a half years in

charge at Post Office Road.

Rovers are second from bottom

of the First Division with only

three points from their first

seven matches. Howard Cartwright and Kevin Hobbs have been put in temporary

casualty of a season just five

weeks old. Graeme West was

sacked at Wigan in February

and since then Steve Simms

(Halifax), John Dorahy (War-

rington), John Joyner (Castle-

ford), Peter Roe (Swinton) and

Ross O'Reilly (Workington)

final on 3 May is a sell-out with the 77,500 tickets generating

record receipts in excess of

centre will be out of the game

John Schuster, the Halifax

The Silk Cut Challenge Cup

have departed.

Ward is the seventh coaching

**Bulls lose Paul** 

to Test call-up

### Short course long on action and glamour

This year sees an irrevocable change in world swimming. anding on the blocks at the third World Short-Course Championships, which begin on Thursday in Gothenburg, the swimmers will be standing on the threshold of profes-

It has come as a direct result of the glamorous nature of short-course swimming. In a pool half the size of the Olympic 50-metre "long course" pool, the extra number of turns make the events faster and closer. With the crowd tightly packed into a smaller arena and much closer to the action, the atmosphere is

This brings in television, which in turn attracts increasingly higger sponsors. The cycle has been building to a watershed at this year's World Tup circuit. Eight competitions run back to back from East Asia to Western Europe, and the athletes race as much as 16 times in two weeks. This year's series offered an unprecedented total prize fund of more than £120,000 and began an open season of professional swimming around the world.

Many cities are seeing the World Cup series as a commercial opportunity, and it is expected to expand into Kuala Lumpur, the host city for the Commonwealth Games next year, Australia and the Americas, to become a truly global the World Cup lies in the fact

Allan Donald, South Africa's

premier fast bowler since the

country's return to interna-

tional cricket, has indicated he

may retire from the interna-

tional game in two years' time.

my international career after the

World Cup in 1999, if I make it

that far." Donald said after the

final one-day international

against Australia in Bloem-

"I'll give serious thought to

James Parrack on the pool of talent meeting

in Gothenburg

that few can now ignore the huge excitement when worldclass athletes race each other for big money. People queued for two and a half hours in Paris and 10,000 boisterous spectators crowded Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro to watch swimming at the highest level. The World Cup organisers hope television will follow the crowd, sponsors will follow the television and with cash as an incentive, more athletes will train and compete harder

Now, after the most successful World Cup series ever, shortcourse swimming is set to explode this week in Gothenburg.

With short-course swimming providing the catalyst for professionalism in the sport, it is no surprise that our best medal prospects, James Hickman, Susan Rolph and the Olympic medallist Graeme Smith, have decided to abandon their University and college courses to focus solely on their professional

swimming careers. The athlete who has travelled furthest up her professional learning curve this year is Rolph. The 18-year-old has had a series of individual medley successes this winter, beginning with the European title in

tionals, is to settle in England

where he has played for War-

Leicestershire, will know this

week whether the West Indian Phil Simmons will be continu-

ing as their overseas player this

season. There is a serious doubt

cause of his Red Stripe Cup

commitments and the possibil-

about Simmons' availability be-

The county champions,

wickshire for 10 years.

December. "In the past I've only done one of the World Cup meets. This year I did four competitions in two weeks and used it as a training formight of very high quality sessions. I knew I'd be tired, but I wanted to see how I'd cope with getting off a plane one day and swimming the next. You've got to be strong-minded about it and now I'm No 1 in the world rankings for the 200 medley going

Change, however, is always anathema to the purists, who see short-course swimming as something of a diversion to real" swimming, which, for them, will only ever be long course. The Olympic Games, because of the massive media attention it generates, will always be the glamour event of world swimming. But once every four years is not enough to sustain a swimmer or a sport.

into the worlds."

And who can honestly say that five years' time, the World Short-Course Championships will be the poor relation to its longer brother? Long course will certainly be more prestigious, but will it be as exciting? It is a debate which resonates through other sports: one-day cricket versus the Test match, the penalty shoot-out and so on. Professional swimming and short-course swimming now have a momentum which can-

not be stopped. To succeed you

have to be totally professional.

And you have to be in Gothen-

burg this weekend.



In at the deep end: Britain's best on trial at Sheffield on Friday

SPORTING DIGEST

Photograph: Robert Haifam

#### against Oldnam on Sunday. He for six weeks after breaking a will miss only one game, at S. I. ford on 25 April. bone in his leg during Sunday's graw with London. **Brandon and Cadle**

Basketbali

RICHARD TAYLOR

The coaches, Jim Brandon and Kevin Cadle, admit to being baffled by their teams' performances this season, but hope their players can focus on Weingeots, driven by the Frenchmen bley when they line up tonight in the second legs of the Bud-weiser League play-off quarter

> Brandon's Sheffield Sharks and Cadle's London Towers won the opening away games in the best of three series at the weekend. The Sharks won 77-72 in front of over 11,000 Giants fans at Manchester's Nynex Arena, while the Towers beat the

Eagles 91-79 in Newcastle. Victories at home tonight will give the Sharks and the Towers decisive 2-0 series victories and a place in the finals at Wembley Arena on the first weekend

seek consistency in May - but neither coach is

taking success for granted. Brandon is especially wary. Last season Manchester lost their opening quarter-final game at home to the Leopards, then won both the returns in London to qualify for Wembley.

Sheffield, title contenders until the final weekend of the regular season, lost two of their last four games to finish only third. Brandon said: "If I knew what it was that makes my players tick, I might be ahead of the game. Recently, though, we've become more tightly knit... we

can win the whole thing."
The Leopards, the League champions, have already qualified by beating Leicester City Riders twice at the weekend. Birmingham Bullets, last season's play-off winners, must win both home games against Chester Jets tomorrow and on Friday to go through.

#### Cannock to protest over extra time

Cricket

esterday's draw for the seminals of the Hockey Association up was made under the shadw of a protest lodged by Canock who on Sunday were caten after extra time by Tedington in a match in which 30 tinutes of extra time was played ther than the regulation 15 inutes, writes Bill Colwill. he protest is being made beruse the rules of the competion had been contravened.

Neil Campling, Teddington's tanager, said yesterday: "It is my sad that such a presti-ious club as Cannock should el the need to protest. Both ams knew what they were gog into at the end of normal ne and were happy to accept minutes each way as we tre informed by the umpires id match official when the ams tossed for ends. A protest w is not sportsmanlike." While the HA refused to evulate on the outcome, it

upheld. "If it were, we would nainly consider pulling out" re Campling's final words as expressed his pleasure at the au away to Surbiton, "We e got to fancy our chances. Reading, the league chamins and cup holders, have and drawn at home against St hans and will fancy their ances for a second successive Pearance at Milton Keynes. Cup Semi-final draw: Reading v St Al-Sandon v Teddingon for Cannock). 2 on played on Sunday 27 April,

sunlikely the protest could

#### wickets in eight Tests in suc- against Sri Lanka.

fontein on Sunday. ity he could be included in the Donald, 30, who claimed 41 West Indies' squad for the Tests

Athletics The runner who died during Sunday London Marathon was identified yes-terday as 44-year-old James Herbert from Plymouth. He collapsed during the race, which took place in unusually high race, which coop pace in onusually may temperatures of 63F (17C), and was pronounced dead at St Thomas's hos-pital. Herbert was the fifth numer to de in the 17-year history of the race, which had a meet-record 29,000 runners on

NORTEL CHERRY BLOSSOM 10-MBE RUN (Washington DC, Sunday): Ment 1 P Githu-ka irkeni Jörnn 19set: 2 J kanulo (keni 46:38; 3 C Maronga (Zami, Woment 1 V Yegoroka Jens SA 7

BASGDAII

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Los Angeles 14 Pirtiburgh 5; San Diego 3 Philadeotria 1; Circonnatu 6 Flonda 4; Atlanta 6 Chicago White Sor
4; Morrea 8 Coorado 3; San Francisco 5 Nex York Vankees 1 (first game); San Francisco 7 Rew York Vankees 6 (second game);
Sc Lous 6 Houston 2.

MATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 5 New York
Metc 1 (first game); San Diego 3 Philadel
pha 1; Los Angeles 14 Philadel 5, Chicannatu 6 Flonda 4; Atlanta 6 Chicago Cubs 4;
Montrea 8 Colorado 3; Si Lous 6 Houston 2.

MBA: Demai 108 Cheago 91; Minaukee 132 New Jersey 123; Houston 113 Seattle 73; LA Laters 100 Utah 98; Phoenix 105 Gold-ne Sente 7 

Boxing

Damel Zaragoza of Messco defended his World Bosing Council jumor leatherweight title in Osaka, Japan yesterday with a unanimous 12-round decision over locituro Talsuyoshi of Japan, There were champion, fighting before 6,000 spec-tators, made his fourth defence of the title he won from Hector Acero, of the Dominican Republic, on 5 November 1995.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Borno, Sunt Mez Second round: Nova) 7 Finance 5 (10 ends) Denmark 4 Australia 3 (10); Canada 7 Sections

#### Donald may retire after 1999 World Cup cessive series against India and English cricket's county scorers have failed in their attempt Australia as well as 58 wickets sors disagreed. in the past 26 one-day interna-

to gain greater recognition from the game's major sponsors. Combill Insurance, who back England's home Test programme and Benson and Hedges, will continue to refuse to award scorers a similar medallion to those received by players. umpires and groundsmen. Only Not West give them parity.

Ted Lester, the former Yorkshire batsman who is now chairman of the Association of County Cricket scorers, had announced that England scorers would be awarded medal-

5 Switcertand 4 (11) Standings: 1 Canada (P.C.) Pistor: 2 Germani (2-0); 3 Denmani (2-0); 4 United States; (1-1; 5 Novem; (1-1); 8 Switzer land (1-1); 7 Sweden (1-1); 8 Finland (0-2); 9 Australa (0-2); 10 Scotland (0-2); Women: Flish round: Finland 6 Sootland (0-1); Women: Flish round: 5 (6); Sweden 7 United States 5 (10); 1999 1 (1999)

Switzstand 5. Gt; Sweden 7 United States 5.10:: Japon 7 German, 6.10:: Caracta 5 Nonway 3.10:. Second round: Norway 7 Switzstand 5.10:. Caracta 9 United States 4.9:: Cerman, 10 Scottand 3.7:: Sweden 7 Firstand 4.9:: Cerman, 11 Japan 4.9:. Standings: 1 Derman, 11 Japan 4.9:. Standings: 1 Derman, 10:: 5 Norway 11: 11; 6 Japan 11: 11; 7 German, 11: 12 Scottand (0-2): 9 Switzstand (0-2): 10 United States (0-2)

SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Paris-Roubeby Classic (185.6 mbes) Leading final stand-ings: 1 F. Guesdon (Fr. 6tr 38mm 10sec; 2) Planckart (Bell: 3 J. Museeuw (Bell: 4 A Tch-

Planckant (Belt) 3 J Museeuw (Belt) 4 A Tch-mi (Bus) 5 O Clearatho (b) 9 R Somens (Dert); 7 M Wauters (Belt), 8 F Montassin (Frt all same bries; 9 R Alog (Ger) + 1 Jose; 10 H Voges Aust +25sec, World Cup standings (affort throe races); 1 Somensen 156pts; 2 = Guesdon, E Zabel (Gor) 100; 4 = Planckaert, Montassin 94; 6 Cosarotto 87; 7 Tchmd 80; 8 A Ehi (th 70; 9 M Barroli (to) 64; 10 Museeuw 63

USITUS
SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: British interna-tional Championships (Lakeside Country Chib. Frimley Green, Surrey): Men: Engand 1 Scotland 5. Final Table: 1 England 4 pts. 2 Wales 2: 3 Scotland 0. Weener Wales 2 England 2. Final table: 1 Wales 3pts; 2 Eng-tand 3: 3 Scotland 0 (Wales son on legs di-ference).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Postponer Wed 23 Apr: Totlenham v Middleshrough

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Post-poned: Tue 22 Apr. Wattord v Chesterleid. Ro-amanged fintures: Frl 25 Apr. Portsmouth v Ipsauch. Set 26 Apr. Birmangham v Oxford Instant

TODAY'S

NUMBER

250-1

Football

lions this season, but the spon-"I am however delighted to

announce that in future England scorers will be presented by the English Cricket Board, with a framed certificate to mark the appointment," Lester said. Somerset have appointed the long-serving batsman Richard Harden, 31, as vice-captain to new skipper Peter Bowler.

Warwickshire's slow left-arm bowler Ashley Giles could be forced to miss England A's Tetky Bitter Shield game against the Rest starting at Edgbaston on Friday because of a knee injury.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Postponed: Wed 23 April: Celtic v Nilmamock.
SUNDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Spanish League: Scotting Geot 1 (Cheren 90) Volladdid 2 (Crandona 64, Fernanda 89; Legothes 0 Real Madrid 2 (Victor 36, Raul 671, Zuragoza 2 (Gonzalez 23, Radimos 82) Hercules 0; Composiela 2 (Pener 38, Ohen 60) Celta Vigo 1 (Bacetta 33); Radimos 82) Hercules 12) Risk Oslecano 2 (Mintonacz pen 82, Guiherme 89); Real Sopedad 0 Real Bets. 1 (Valdemna 90); Artico Madrid 2 (Ndo 15, 63) Barcetone 5 (Ham 40, Pornato 44, 60, pon 75, Fgn 88), Italian League thierruscorole 3 (Djohaeff 22, Zamorana 43, Gans 60) Milan 1 (Baggio 87).

#### McRae has the edge Rallying

The Subaru team made up for their double retirement in Portugal three weeks ago as Colin McRae and Italy's Piero Liatti filled the two top positions after the first day of the Catalun-

va Rally yesterday. The team-mates, who finished first and second in this rally last year, were separated by just one second after the day's six stages through the mountains above the coastal resort of Lloret de Mar. The surprise of the day was

15 S Jones (US) 5.74; 16 C Pawn (US) 5.68; 17 B Langer (Gen 5.53; 17 B Faxon (US) 5.53; 19 T Weison (US) 5.45; 20 S Sincker (US) 5.43.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Pool B (Katow-lee, Pol): Great Britain 2 Kazakirstan 4: Switzerland 6 Demmark 4; Belarus 7 Poland 2; Netherkinds 2 Austra 2:

ice hockey

François Delecour and Jules Pazzini. Delecour took the lead on the first stage but, after los-ing it to Pazzini on the second stage he went off the road on the third stage, at Coll de Santigosa. That handed the initiative to

Pazzini, who slowly extended his lead, first over the Finn, Tommi Makinen, and then McRae, as the battle behind him hotted up during the middle section of the day. But on the final stage, at Cladells, Pazzini lost a lot of time after suffering a punc-ture, which effectively cost him pace of the two-wheel drive Peu- any realistic chance of victory.

Rugby League
ARL SUPER LEAGUE: Conula Sha

(FINA) yesterday announced that the world championships will be staged every two years, instead of four, from 2001. The short-course world championships

Table tennis

Table tennis

COMMONWEATH CHAMPRONSHEPS (Gengow) Marz Group A: England 4 South Africa 0
ting names fast: A Perty it 5 Overmeyer 2111. 21-8. B Bithington it is Peterson 21-16 2118: Glesbert it D Goostecke 21-14 21-10: Perty
and G Herbert it G Peterson and Overmeyer 219 21-141: England 4 Mountous 0 (Eng names
Brit G Herbert it G Descan 21-15 21-9, A Perty it J Sahajassen 21-12 21-12, B Betington
th R Bhurtan 21-10 21-13. Herbert and Peny
tx J Ganegam and H Thyrigon 21-6 21-131.
Group B: Scotland 3 Singapore 4, Group C:
Carrada 4 Wales 1, Australia 4 Wales 1. Group
D: Northern Incland 4 Oppins 0: Northern Incland 4 Berbados 0. Women: Group A: England
4 New Zealand 0. (England names first: N Descon
tx I Epps 21-5 21-7. H Lower bt 5 Finch 2110 21-9. L Radford by D Gorrent 21-11 21-10.

## HALF-TRASE: Score Draws (4): 10, 18, 29, 37 No Score Draws (11): 7, 13, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 38, 43, 46, No claims required; forecast is moderate. FULL-TRIME: Score Draws (7): 14, 18, 29, 43, 57, 49, No Score Draws (2): 20, 38, Away Wins, (11): 2, 11, 15, 16, 21, 33, 30, 11, 36, 41, 42, Claims Invited for 22/23 pts: forecast is very good.

#### TODAY'S FIXTURES

Blackgool v Luton Brentford v Chesterfield (7.45) Bristol City v Westham (7.45) Bry v Crewe (7.45) Notis County v Plymouth (7.45) Wycombe v Burniey (7.45)

THIRD DIVISION

Cardiff v Scuntherpe .
Hull City v Coichester. BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE AER DIVISION Rovers v Rengers (7.45) . Raith Rovers v Rengers (7.45)

BRIAN McCLART TESTIMONIAL: Manchester Utd v Celluc (8.01).

ICS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury v Herchn (7.45); Bozeram Wood v Yoading Dulwich Hamter v Sutton Utd: Grays v Staines (7.45); Heydridge v Enfield. First Division: Barton Rovers v Wolwingham (7.45); Carney Island v Bogon Regs: Tooting & Micham v Thamo (7.45), Ushnidge v Biletica (7.45); Worthing v Ahngton Town (7.45); Bedford Town v Ware (7.45); Encircled v Benstead; Coller Rov & Romford v Lesdonings of 7.45); Bedford Town v Ware (7.45); Encircled v Benstead; Coller Rov & Romford v Lesdonings of 7.45); Herstam v Tibury (7.45); Worthing (7.45); Hind Division; Enson & Ewell v Worgare & Pinchley (7.45); Hertford v Northwood: Homeharch v Aveley; Southall v Clapton (7.45).

Football

7.30 unless stated

SECOND DIVISION

NATIONWIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE

PREST DIVISION
Barnstey v Oldham (7.45)......
Birmingham v Transere (7.45)....
Crystal Patace v Stoke (7.45)...

The odds laid by William Hill about Tiger Woods winning golf's Grand Slam - before his victory in the US Masters the odds were 1,000-1. One wise punter staked £2,000 with Hill's on Woods to win the Masters at 14-1.

## GOIF IS MOLAS OPEN (Sordinia) Leading final scores (GB or Inf unites statisdi: 281 A Colison 11 71 71 88. 286 T Nethern (Non 73 71 71 71 75 73; AM Pitz Fra) 70 77 70 72 299 I Jagren (Swe) 73 75 71 71; I Level (Fn 73 76 70 71; HP Dut (Gent 76 67 72 75; C Van der Velde (Neth) 79 69 68 74. 291 H Nystrom (Swe) 69 72 82 68; L Bernardin (Italy) 75 70 77 69; N Joakendes (Fn 70 77 17 73; 292 F Honley 17 47 85 9) LEADING WORLD RANKINGS: 1 C Norman Vurs 10.070ts over 2 TLEMma (US) 9.84; 3 T Voods (US) 8.73, 4 C Mongomere (GB 8.70; 5 N O'Mear 105) 8.62; 6 S E Ingelton (Italy) 8.55; 7 E Et GAN 8.55; 8 M Otate (Jacon 9.18; 7.31; 11 F Couples (US) 7.00; 12 N Fatto (US) 8.81; 13 5 Hoch (US) 6.66; 44 D Love (It (US) 5.98; Railying CATALINYA RALLY (Lieret de Mar, shifs stage, first legis 1 C McRee (GB) Subrau 1:04:15:3 T Malanen (Fin) Micsubesh 1:04:29: 4 A Medegha fitt Subrau 1:05:05; 5 C Sartz (Sp) Ford 1:05:13; 6 J Azoona (Sp) Peugeot 1:05:25; 7 A Schwarz (Ge) Ford 1:05:50; 8 R Madera (Por) Subatu 1:06:26.

Gerustoved LEAGUE Premier Division: Bu-ton v Knowsky; Frickley Althoric v Ganston-cush Trinty; Galselby v Manner, Lancaster v Afreton; Ruricom v Bamber Bridge; Witton Al-bon v Werstons Urd. Pirst Division: Congle-ion v Curcon Asthori, Great Harveod Town v Fursely Cetor; Raddiffe Borough v Ashton Urd; Warmigton v Workington; Workson v Lincoln Utd. UNIBONO LEAGUE Premier Division: Bur-

Utd.

DR MARTERS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Ashford v Baldock (7.45); Crawley v Dorchester, Hastings v Salisbury. Mildland Divisions Grantiam v Corby (7.45); Raunda v Stepshed Dynamic Reddict v Handley Town Tamworth v Bedworth Southern Divisions: Fleet v Wargste (7.45); Troubindge v Warey, Weston-super-Asare v Clevedon. Lungue Cap final Brist leg: Burton Albon v Sudhury Town. Winston Eac Kent Leadur First Division: Chatham v Deal (7.45); Herne Bay v Thames-mead (7.45); Hythe v Whitstable.

IMBLET SUSSIEX COUNTY LEAGUE First DI-Vision: Harbitain v Eastboutte Town.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-Vision: American Colleges v Maine Road; Narthech Town v Eastwood Harley, Floodill: Trophy semi-final second leg: Vauntail GM (1) v Newcastle Town (1). NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-mier Division: Arnold v Liversedge (7.45); Hucknall v Belper; Ossett Town v North Fer-

nby.
SCREWFOX DORECT LEAGUE Presider Divi-sion: Bidgewter v Mongotsfield (7.45); West-bury v Pauton Rouers (7.45).
EWISON EASTERN LEAGUE Presider Divi-sion: Felosione v Halstoad (7.45); Loseet-cht v Gorieston (7.45); Newmarket v Harvich: & Parkecton (7.45); Worton v Falenhom (7.45); Woodbridge v Bury Town (7.45).

### UHLSPORY UNITED COUNTRES LEAGUE CUP Fixed first leg: Desborough v Northsimp-

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Coventry v Aston Vilia (7.0). Cricket

FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (First day of three 11.0 start): Feaner's: Cambridge University v Derhyshire The Paries: Oxford University

Rugby League 7.30 unless stated STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Leeds v Castleford

**Rugby Union** 7.30 unless stated COURAGE CLUBS CH League One: Harlequins v Bristol; Sale v Saracers (7.15).

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division

### A Holt and I. Lomes bt Finch and Garrett 21: 12 21: 18); England 4 Matayasa 2 (Englis N Destan lost to Lin Jing Yao 21: 15: 21: 4, L Lomas tri See Sim Phus 21: 10, 21: -11, A Hoff bt Lee Fong Bah 21: 12: 21: 11, Lomas and Hoff bt Lee and Bee 21: 12: 21: 12: 15, Lomas lost to Lin 21: 19 22: 20, Hott or Bee 21: 12: 22: 20).

Terrinis

BARCELONA OPEN Mean's singles, Snat round?
Rivian (t) bi J Diez (Sp) 6-7 6-3 7-5; M Goetner (Ger) bit S Inguera (Sp) 6-4 2-6 6-2; J A
Moca (Sp) bit K Carlsen (Den) 6-3 6-9; H Aross
(Mor) bit M Gornz (Sp) 6-3 6-4; J Alonso (Sp) bit
M Gustalisson (Swe) 7-6 3-6 6-3; C Ocasa (Sp)
bit S Schallen (Neth 6-2 6-1; A Meatin (Sp) bit
A Volnes (Roth) 6-4 6-3; C Ruus (Nor) bit B Likheach
(12 Rep) 6-3 6-3; K Rams (Mor) bit B Likheach
(12 Rep) 6-3 6-3; K Rams (Mor) bit G Blanco (Sp)
6-4 6-4; G Schaller (Aut) bit M Stach (Ser)
6-2 6-2; M Larisson (Swe) bit D Hrbetly
(Slovak) 7-5 6-4.

(Slovek) 7-5 6-4.

JAPPAN OPEN CHAMBUCHESHIPS (Tokyo) Mem's stagles, first round: M Serier (Get) bt A Othorsky (Rus) 6-3 6-4; O Detaura (Fr) bt R Smith (Barh) 6-7 6-3 6-3; C Ametra (Fr) bt R Smith (Barh) 6-7 6-3 6-3; Philippe Fleuran (Fr) bt J Grabb (Jappan) 6-2 7-5; D Largue (Zan) bt S Smissa (Fr) 6-3 6-2; S Largue (Zan) bt S Smissa (Fr) 6-3 6-2; T Suzuki (Japan) bt A Thorns (Gen) 6-4 6-2; J Golmand (Fry) bt Doug Fleur (JS) 6-2 6-4; H Holm (Swe) bt M Joyce (US) 4-6 6-3 7-

5: R Sabou (Rom) bi T Shamada (Japan) 6-2 6-2: F Fetarten (Dem) bi G Micharusa (Japan) 3-6-4-6-3. Women's singles, first rouse R Hazle (Japan) bi R Grande (D) 6-1, 5-7 6-3; M Saeki (Japan) bi R Gess (Ger 6-1, 4-1) Gess re-tired injured); C Morana (D'S) bi Sung Hee Pari-Si Kin (6-6-2; M fu (BS) bi A Dectrame Gallert Fir) 6-4-6-0; A Sugyama (Japan) bi G Helpe-son-Nelsen (LS) 6-3 7-5; Wang Sh-mg (Rail bi H house (Japan) 6-1, 6-1. SALEM OPEN (Hong Kong) Men's singles fi-nal: M Chang (US) bt P Ratter (Aus) 6-3 5-3.

DEADING ATP WORLD RANGINGS: 1 P Sempres IUS 5.437 pts: T Miceter (Aut 3.946; 3 M Chang US) 5.462; 4 V Astenikov (Roy 3.946; 3 M Chang US) 5.612; 4 V Astenikov (Roy 3.147; 5 G Inanisevo (Cross 2.710; 6 R Mesicok (Neth) 2.958; 7 T Ermixis (Swel 2.198; 8 C Moss (Sp) 2.186; 9 M Ross (Cinte) 2.168; 10 W Femera (SA) 1.940; 11 B Becker (Gen 1.83); 12 A Coera (Sp) 1.857, GB: 15 T Herman 1.611. Ta Spi 1,857, GB: 15 T Herman 1,611.

LEADING WTA WORLD RANKINGS: 1 M Hungs Swip 5020,5000ps; 2 S Graf (Gar) 424,6000; 3 M Selss (US) 3517,8082; 4 / Noutrie (CR Roys) 3513,4412; 5 A Sanchez Vezaro (Sp) 3084,1871; 6 C Mertinez (Sp) 2921,6710, 7 Deveropor (US) 2910,0667; 8 A Huser (Gar) 2009,0388; 6 I Migoli (Croa) 2,365,020; 10 Spiries (Roys) 17 (B Selss) 11 K Habstadios (Sovalvi 1785,2182; 12 A Coetzer (SA) 1769,7009.

Downloading from the Internet without ISDN?

Here's something to pass the time.

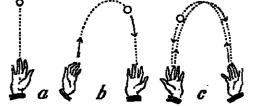
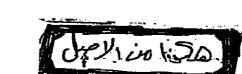


Fig. 6. The principles of Ball Juggling.

ISDN is up to four times quicker than an ordinary phone line. Call BT Businessconnections on Freefone 0800 800 800.

Freefone 0800 800 800





## Atherton appointed for Ashes series

Cricket Correspondent

Michael Atherton has been reappointed as England cricket captain for the summer's Tests and one-day matches against Australia. Barring injury, he will now break Peter May's 41 Test record as captain, set 36 years ago, when he leads England in the second Test at Lord's.

The announcement was made by Lord MacLaurin, the chair-

man of the England Cricket Board, at Combill's Player of the Year awards luncheon, an accolade deservedly won by Surrey's Alec Stewart, once Atherton's main rival for the captaincy.

The appointment for the whole of the summer is certain to boost the confidence of both captain and team. It was a point reinforced by Atherton when he said: "Australia will start this summer's series as favourites, but psychologically we will be expecting to do well.

"I think my appointment message that will be given to the

Winning is the only known antidote to sporting uncertainty and Atherton, his captaincy under severe pressure after England's dis-mal performances in Zimbabwe; managed to regain approval of his leadership qualities after his team's back to back Test wins against New Zealand, during the second half of the winter.

shows the right amount of con-must roll, the timing may appear fidence and stability. That's the to have been fortuitous, but when needed, great survivors like Atherton have always been able to lurch across tightropes

without falling. The two victories certainly persuaded David Graveney. the chairman of selectors, and his two cohorts. Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, who made their recommendation to Lord MacLaurin, several weeks ago. MacLaurin still retains the

To those certain that heads chairman's power of veto, a must roll, the timing may appear mechanism that did for Gatting in 1989, when he was appointed and then removed as captain within the space of two days.

Happily for Atherton, the outgoing chairman of Tesco is clearly an Atherton fan, and despite the alarm he professed after seeing England at their most churiish during the Zim-babwe leg of last winter's tour, kept the lethal veto in its holster. However, being a successful and dynamic businessman,

MacLaurin has also sought to under the spotlight for 24 hours rectify the matter of England's a day and we need to help xenophobia - sooner rather than later - by putting in place a series of initiatives.

The first of these begins today with a two-day course on management development and team understanding run by Will Carling at a secret location in the Midlands.

"Our Test players are a top priority," MacLaurin said. Their preparation to that end is our responsibility. They are

them cope with the pressures and strains. From now on nothing but the best is good enough for our players. But I want a big return for or investment and

wasn't joking when I said I want them to die for England." For his part Atherton re-spects and likes MacLaurin and has often stated that he feels he and David Lloyd are now getting the unconditional backing from the management he feels

under the spotlight for 24 hours was not always there in the past-As captain, Atherton has only been half as successful as Peter May, winning just 10 out of 40 Tests to May's 20. Comparisons across eras, bowever odious, are inevitable in a coun-

try hooked on nostalgia. In any case, May did manage to win one of the three Ashes series he skippered. If Ather can do the same this summer his record-breaking run as captain will at last burst free from its straitjacket of mediocrity.

## Woods' triumph changes shape of golf overnight

sport enters a different dimension virtually overnight. In fact, it took four days to transform the game of golf and capture the global imagination, but anyone who witnessed the power and grace of a certain 21-year-old as he left the Masters field behind him will be able to say in future years that they saw Tiger Woods' first major. For there will be many, many more

As an extraordinary performance unfolded, it was difficult not to make seemingly extravagant comparisons. Such as the way Bob Beamon took the long jump into a different realm, or the way Bjorn Borg played another game entirely.

As frightening as a man of his tender years winning his first major championship as a professional by the little matter of 12 strokes is, at least it was beyond the wildest dreams of even Tiger Woods. "I've always dreamt of winning the Masters." Woods, newly coated in his Green Jacket, said.

"I never thought I would have a lead like I did. You envision duelling it out with Nick-

after a Vietnamese soldier

friend of his father. Grew up in

1978 Aged two, appeared on

1981 Aged five, featured in Golf

International Junior World tour-

nament for the first time. Would

win it five more times over the

1990 Aged 14, youngest golfer

to win the National Youth Clas-

sic. Southern California Player

1991 Aged 15, youngest to win

US Junior Amateur Championship.

Wins seven other tournaments.

Golf Digest Player of the Year.

next seven years.

Cypress, California.

It is a rare occurrence when a Andy Farrell reports from Augusta on the conditions. But I think if you Master who is that rare individual capable of taking a sport into a new dimension

> someone who's awfully tough to when Nicklaus came on the beat down the stretch, or birdieing the last three holes to get into a play-off, but never to do it in the fashion I did."

Woods, the youngest-ever winner at Augusta, did so by breaking Jack Nicklaus's largest winning margin by three shots and Nicklaus's and Ray Floyd's low score by one. These are records that only Woods, the second player to win his first major as a pro, can think of breaking in the future.

Nicklaus's record of six Masters titles is also in danger, and the Bear knows it. "I have never known any young man han-die pressure as well as him," Nicklaus said. "Not only does he live up to his publicity, he outperforms it.

Everyone knew Augusta was made for Woods' power game, but there were enough suspicious people in the game who wondered whether he had enough experience of Augusta itself and major championships laus or Watson or Faldo, in general Now we know As

ANATOMY OF A PRODICY

1975 Born Eldrick Woods on 1992 Aged 16, becomes only 1996 Aged 20, College Play-

December 30, the son of Earl, golfer to win second US Junior er of the Year, winning eight out

a retired lieutenant colonel in Amateur title. Plays in the Los of 14 tournaments, including

the US Army and his Thai wife. Angeles Open on the US PGA NCAA Championship. Tied

1993 Aged 17, won third con-

secutive US Junior Amateur

and Dial Award as top nation-

nat from six holes down. Won

five other titles. Led United

World Amateur Team Champi-

onship in Versailles. Los Ange-

Golf World Man of the Year.

1995 Aged 19, retained US Am-

ateur title. Made the cut in the

Masters, his first major cham-

pionship, and the Open. Mem-

ber of losing US Walker Cup

team at Royal Porthcawl. Stan-

ford University's Male Freshman

States to 11-stroke victory in the events on US Tour. First play-

les Times Player of the Year and Tour Rookie of the Year and

national television putting with Bob Hope. al high school male athlete. 1994 Aged 18, was youngest to win US Amateur Champi-

nine holes at Naw GC, Cypress. onship, coming back in the fi-

peak at the just the right times, a lot like Nicklaus used to do, and have luck on your side, then who knows? The nearest anyone has come scene in the 60s, there is a new to raising their game for a par-

thought impossible in profes-

right tournaments four times,

then you have a slam. It's diffi-

world, under the most extreme

Open. Only golfer to win three consecutive US Amateur titles,

winning the final at the 38th

after being two down with

three to play. Turned professional in August with con-tracts worth \$43m (£26.8m)

from Nike and Titlelist and

holed in one during maiden pro

event. Won fifth and seventh

er to have five consecutive too-

five finishes for 14 years. US

Sports Illustrated Sportsman of

1997 Aged 21, Won Mercedes

Championships, by almost hol-

ing in one in play-off with Tom

Lehman. Won Honda Asian

Classic in Bangkok by 10 shots.

Runs away with the Masters in

his first maior.

sional golf. Not any more.

standard. Worryingly, for the Ryder Cup at Valderrama in ticular week since Nicklaus is Faldo, but Woods was the one September, Europe's best two players, Nick Faldo and Colin who threw the switch at the turn on Thursday. Four over for the Montgomerie, both shot 81s the first nine holes. Woods played day after playing with Woods. Faldo is the ultimate modern the last 63 holes in 22 under. Faldo missed the cut. Both spent professional and a man whose the previous week preparing for goal is eventually to win all four Augusta, both had the greens at of the major championships. So far the Englishman has won two their respective homes in Orlando shaved to Masters speed. of them, the Masters and the Only Woods shot a 59, beating Mark O'Meara's course Open Championship, three times each. The Grand Slam.

record at Isleworth by five winning all four majors in the shots. "I busted my tail to try to get ready and when I got here. same year, may have been achieved in tennis, but it was I was ready to go," Woods said. "It does help when you shoot a 59 at home. When a person has "Whether it is realistic or not. the time and ability to prepare, I can't tell you, but I think it can then a person can win a tour-Woods said, "Take

Brad Faxon, by contrast, Phil Mickelson last year. He won four times. If you win the spent the week winning the Freeport McDermott Classic in New Orleans. "I don't have cult because they are majors, the ability to control when I am going to play well," Faxon said. He missed the cut at Augusta. with the best players in the During the week of his first tournament as a professional last year - when he was 60th, but has not been worse than 31st since - Woods gave an interview on television to Curtis Strange, the double US Open champion

In the interview, Woods repeated his mantra, that he is looking to win every tournament. he plays, and that he is not inted in finishing second or third. "But, on tour, second or third is not too bad," Strange said. Woods concurred, but restated his original premise. Strange laughed. "You'll learn," he said. It is Strange and his Tour colleagues who have to come to terms with the fact that the age of equality is over. The dominance of one player, thought to

have died out in golf, is back. Woods has not played at the three other sites of this year's majors: Congressional in Washington for the US Open, Royal Troon for the Open and Winged Foot, New York, for the USP-GA. Augusta, with no rough, is perfectly suited for Woods, al-



Tiger Woods celebrates with his father after achieving the goal of winning his first major

to him, and Charlie Sifford, and like Seve Ballesteros. What lowing him full reign to unleash his power off the tee, but that because of them I am able to Woods will always have is the

play the PGA Tour and live my venues. That just means he may not win by a record margin. "I think winning here is going to do a lot for the game of Woods' victory came on the 50th anniversary of Jackie golf, but I think it will be my age that will be an influence on the Robinson breaking into the game. Young people don't nor-mally pursue golf. Now, hope-fully, they will think it is a cool major leagues, 22 years after Lee Flder became the first black golfer to play in the Masters and seven years after Augusta admitted their first black member. "That's why this vic-

game to play."
As his body grows older and less supple. Woods will have to throttle back on his swing, just as Nicklaus did. The consequence of not doing so is to end up with serious back problems

er will." Earl said.

Photograph: Dave Martin/AP After completing his aston-

ishing victory, Woods sank is the arms of his parents. "Every mind of a champion. His father. Earl, used his army background time I hug my mom or pop afto test Tiger psychologically ter a tournament, I know I from an early age. "Tiger has have accomplished my goal. I never met anyone as mentally know it is over." After Sunday strong as himself, and he nevat Augusta, golf as we know it

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3273. Tuesday 15 April

on the way (9)

 Electrical unit one's seen in type of supply of Italian sci- 21 A way of indicating father is 6

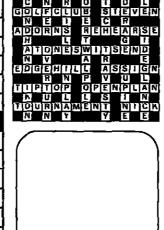
Merged companies taking 22 Fixes meal to be cooked by 7 But only by sifting or lying on head of tropical produce (7) Let Times etc. come for 23 Baby's clothes, however, will

grilling from these MP's? make it cold and noisy (5)

11 Worker givin' nothing for a | musical that's rejected (9) 12 Quite a lot of former decades I have concred (9) 2 14 They're secured by those

best at tests (5) 15 Irritate games woman (5) to Half teachers, twice taking hooligan, showed disap- 4





18 Dora could suggest repairs 5 Take part in race and secure new time, being able (9) Tea could be swilling round a lover of hamboo shoots (5)

could you get this? (15) people in personal assess-8 Note material for fencing in ment (4-11) tents (7) be coming in after due time 13. Tie up poor cleaner with it 10 Thunder before this could 24 Father gets crew a cargo (7) 14 Skim over article in treat-

DOWN ment of advanced plaque (9) Vices wrongly used by the 15 Friend embraces artist thus, French will produce a small which is a bit shady (7) 17 Curse about poor gen found hister (7) Not the mountain woman's in search (7) flower (4,2,3,6) Civil Engineer's written on

grammar (9) Company accepts account to

secure a source of chocolate

19 Wife has to warm up ceretime of crash in correct 20 Do winter sports with fel-

### Le Saux falls out with Blackburn

will not be the case with these

tory is even more special,"

Woods, an Afro-Asian said.

"Seeing Lee Elder before I

played meant a lot. I looked up

Football

ALAN NIXON AND RUPERT METCALF

Graeme Le Saux's future at Blackburn Rovers has been placed in further jeopardy following a furious row with the club's caretaker manager, Tony

The confrontation took place after last Saturday's home defeat by Manchester United and is likely to result in Le Saux being dropped for Blackburn's game at Arsenal on Saturday. Ironically, Arsenal are one of several clubs keen to sign him. The left-back, who joined Blackburn from Cheisea in March 1993, is thought to be

keen to return to London. Le Saux, 28, has been criticised by Rovers fans for his recent performances and there is some bad feeling surrrounding him because of the fear that he plans to leave in the summer. The situation came to a head at the weekend when Parkes criticised Le Saux's performance

against United. Parkes now appears ready to drop Le Saux – despite the fact that Rovers have lost three of their last four Premiership games and are still in danger of

reasons for what he did," Lit-tle said. "His actions were slipping back into the relegation struggle. Uefa, European football's wrong and he will now get on governing body, has confirmed with playing football, I will fine

that England have been given him as heavily as I possibly can. an extra place in next season's "I have put my point of view Uefa Cup because of English clubs' impressive disciplinary across about what sort of reac-tions people should have when record in European competithey are left out of the side and tions last season. Norway and his were outside of those and he Sweden have been given the will be punished accordingly. same reward. Little added. He also said that he was unlikely to recall Bosnich for Saturday's home match England will now have four places in the Uefa Cup - one of which will go the winners of to-

against Tottenham. morrow's Coca-Cola Cue final The two Wanderers, Bolton replay between Leicester and and Wolverhampton, have been Middlesbrough. However, if the punished by the Football Association for the brawl during Teesside team win both tomortheir First Division match at row's game and the FA Cup, they will take part in the Cup-Burnden Park in January Winners' Cup and the Uefa Cup places will all go to high fin-Bolton were fined £40,000, of which £30,000 has been susishers in the Premiership. pended until the end of next sea-Mark Bosnich has been fined son. Wolves were fined £30,000, £10,000 by Aston Villa's man-

with £22,500 suspended. ager, Brian Little, following his walk-out prior to Saturday's game against Derby at the Baseball Ground. The Villa goalkeeper has apologised to Little and the club for his actions when he learned that Michael Oakes was to be preferred for the keeper's jersey. "The outcome is he will be

The Portsmouth manager Terry Fenwick, has escaped punishment after allegedly making abusive remarks to the ref cree Andy D'Urso during a First Division match at Crystal Palace in January. Penwick had been charged with misconduct by the FA but no disciplinary action will be taken because, acfined. He has said he is sorry but cording to an FA spokeswoman the case was "not proven". I did not ask for excuses or

dunni

The Alfred Dunhill Londinium Watch

Model shown bi-colour DQ 4550[ Available in Steel, Bi-colour and 18ct Gold versions

Alfred Dunhill watches are available at selected branches of the Goldsmiths group, one of the country's leading retail jewellers with over 20 branches nationwide. For details of your nearest stockist or a brochure call free on 0800 G-O-L-D-S-M-I-T-H-S (0800 465376)

GOLDSMITHS & WALKER & HALL

CPublished by Newspaner Publishing PLC. I Canada Soutre, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Micror Colour Print, St.

Albans Read, Watford and Hellinwood Avenue, Oldham, Back issues avallable from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370. Thereby 15 April 1997 Registered as a new-paper with the Post Office